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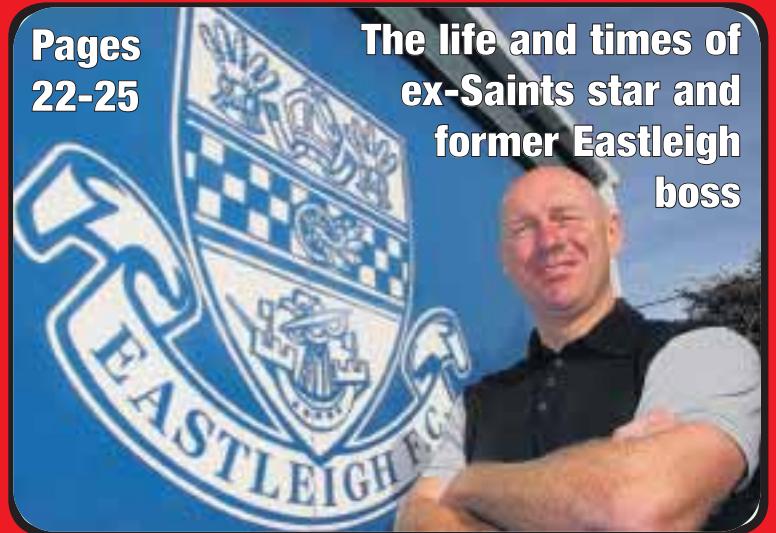
CHERRIES FLOORED BY BLACKBURN BLAST

Bournemouth v Blackburn report – see page 5

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The life and times of
ex-Saints star and
former Eastleigh
boss



STORMING THE PALACE

**Second half blitz
helps Saints see
off Crystal Palace**

SAINTS 2 CRYSTAL PALACE 0

RECORD signing Dani Osvaldo scored his first Saints goal to help his side to make it back-to-back victories with a 2-0 win over Crystal Palace at St Mary's.

Osvaldo netted two minutes into the second half before Rickie Lambert fired home a free kick two

minutes later to bag the three points.

It was a needed result for Mauricio Pochettino's men, who built on victory over Liverpool at Anfield and now sit ahead of Manchester City and just below Chelsea after six games of the season.

Full report and reaction: Pages 2-5



GET IN: Rickie Lambert is mobbed by his teammates after firing in a stunning free-kick against Crystal Palace today.

TERRY PAINE



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EXCLUSIVE column
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NON-LEAGUE



SEVEN pages of the
best coverage
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CRICKET



Review of the season
for Hampshire
– pages 34-35



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Saints Spotlight

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SAINTS 2 CRYSTAL PALACE 0: DANI GETS

OSVALDO'S MARK FOR

RECORD signing Dani Osvaldo scored his first Saints goal to help his side to make it back-to-back victories with a 2-0 win over Crystal Palace at St Mary's.

Osvaldo netted the club's first Premier League goal from open play this season two minutes into the second half before Rickie Lambert fired home a free kick a further two minutes later to bag the three points.

It was a needed result for Mauricio Pochettino's men who built on the momentum gathered by the victory over Liverpool at Anfield and now ahead of Manchester City and just below Chelsea after six games of the season.

The game started in exactly the manner which many had predicted.

Crystal Palace were getting men back behind the ball, sitting deep, compact and organ-

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CHIEF SPORTS REPORTER



ised in their own half and asking Saints the question as to whether they could break them down.

They almost did exactly that on six minutes.

Jose Fonte chipped a direct ball in towards Rickie Lambert with his back to goal and the big striker flicked a header up in the air deep into the penalty area.

Palace keeper Julian Speroni charged out of goal to try and claim it but Morgan Schneiderlin reached the bouncing ball first and headed it over his head.

It was just about to drop under the bar and into the net when Joel Ward got back on the line and just managed to

head it back into the six yard box where Mile Jedinak was on hand to complete the clearance.

Palace's main attacking tactic was to try and hit Saints on the break and they certainly looked capable of doing it and might have troubled Artur Boruc were it not for Jimmy Kebe trying to take an extra touch when he could have had a shot from just inside the area.

Steven Davis was the first player in the book for tugging back Kebe after being caught in possession by the Palace man.

Saints created a decent chance on 23 minutes as Osvaldo fed the ball into Adam

Lallana eight yards out. He showed quick feet to keep possession and roll it back for Lambert to strike first time ten yards out.

However, the striker fired over the bar.

Lambert did hit the target three minutes later from a free kick out on the left.

Speroni looked fairly comfortable behind it diving down to his left but chose to shovel the ball out rather than catch it.

Saints had their hearts in their mouths moments later in a moment of controversy.

Marouane Chamakh was in behind the Saints defence and one-on-one with Boruc.

He tried to move left to round the keeper and went down as the Polish stopper dived in at his feet but failed to get the ball.

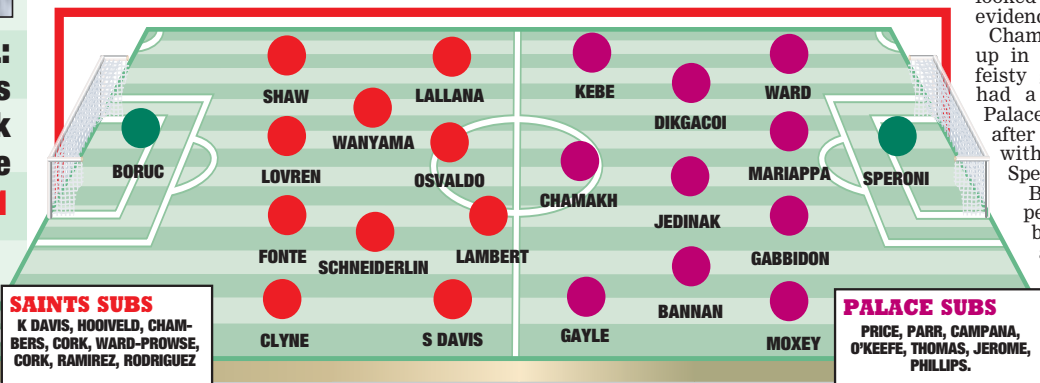
The referee, Martin Atkinson, immediately blew but his decision was not to award a penalty but book Chamakh for diving, which looked entirely justified on the evidence of television replays.

Chamakh was certainly fired up in what was becoming a feisty game and the referee had a word with him and Palace skipper Mile Jedinak after the striker had a spat with his own keeper Speroni.

Both sides had other penalty shouts before the break, Atkinson waving away both Kebe's call after a challenge from Dejan Lovren and Jose Fonte's for a close range handball by Danny Gabbidon.

But when the half time whistle went the game was goalless. That didn't last long into the second period – less than two minutes in actual fact.

Lallana laid the ball off to Osvaldo who shifted it onto his left foot and from just inside the area drilled in a low shot



MAURICIO Pochettino made one change to the side that defeated Liverpool at Anfield for the visit of Crystal Palace to St Mary's.

Jay Rodriguez was the unfortunate man who lost his place, with Steven Davis

TEAM NEWS

replacing him in the starting line-up.

Otherwise Pochettino was able to name an unchanged line-up, with a fully fit and available squad to choose

from. Gaston Ramirez was back on the bench after his goal against Bristol City in the Capital One Cup win in midweek.

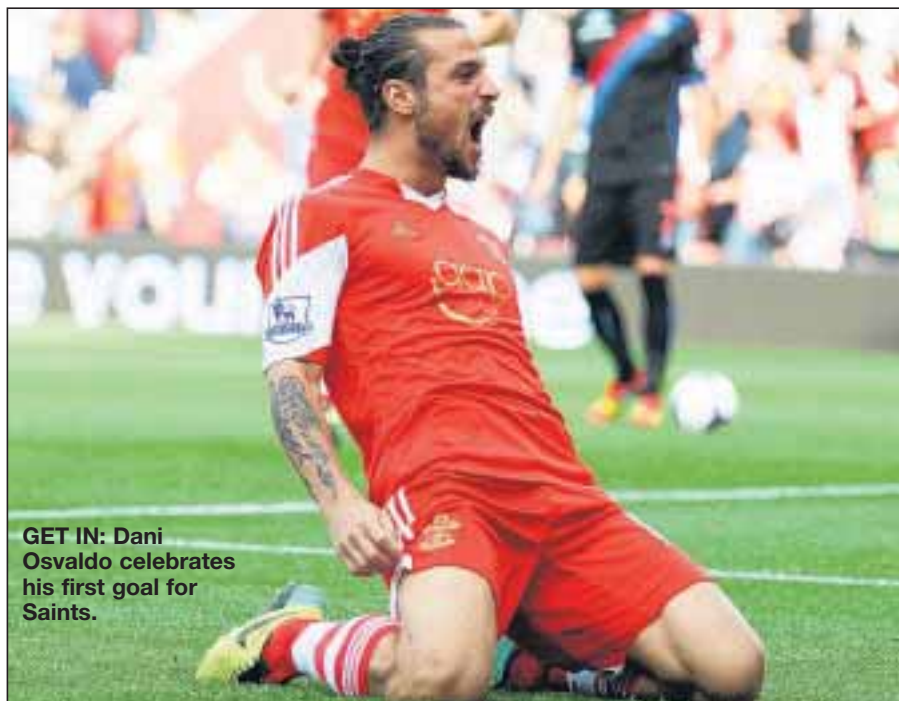
However, there was no place in the matchday squad for Tadanari Lee.

TERRY PAINE'S EXCLUSIVE COLUMN: PAGE 7

Saints Spotlight

HIS FIRST SAINTS GOAL

OFF THE SAINTS



GET IN: Dani Osvaldo celebrates his first goal for Saints.

that Speroni almost got to diving low to his right but couldn't stop from going in for 1-0.

In an incredible Saints burst it was 2-0 just another two minutes later.

This one came from a familiar source.

Saints won a free kick 25 yards out level with the left edge of the area.

Lambert stepped up and curled a shot over the Palace wall and in off the inside of the post with Speroni again diving to his right unable to get near it.

Lambert almost added another with a smartly taken half volley from outside the box but this time it went just wide.

Saints were just tearing Palace apart all of a sudden and Steven Davis probably should have done better when he got the chance to control on

his chest and shoot from 12 yards out but slashed well wide.

Palace reacted by making a double change on 57 minutes with Cameron Jerome and Jerome Thomas replacing Barry Bannan and Dwight Gayle.

Their game plan of sitting back was well and truly out of the window.

They would surely pose a greater threat going forward but that was only going to open things up further for Saints.

Saints made their first switch on 67 minutes with James Ward-Prowse replacing Davis.

Adrian Mariappa found his way into the book for chopping down Schneiderlin.

With a comfortable lead Saints were simply drawing the sting out of the game.

It wasn't much of a specta-

cle but they were doing a professional job in ensuring there was no way back for Palace.

Ex-Saint Kevin Phillips got a decent reception as he was introduced into the action for a final St Mary's appearance on 73 minutes in place of Kebe.

Jay Rodriguez was introduced into the fold on 77 minutes, replacing Lambert with Osvaldo moving into the central striker role.

Saints briefly thought they had got a third goal when Rodriguez turned home from close range after Ward-Prowse's cross had struck the far post, but the flag was already raised for offside in the build-up.

Saints made a final change with four minutes remaining with Gaston Ramirez coming



CHANCE: Jose Fonte heads a chance just wide for Saints.



on for Lallana.

Rodriguez was almost through moments later but under pressure just overran the ball and allowed Speroni to smother the danger.

Jerome had a chance to pull one back in the first of five minutes of stoppage time but skied his effort which rather summed up the day as Saints ran out deserved victors.

CLASH: Adam Lallana takes on Palace's Dean Moxey.

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ALL TODAY'S RESULTS: TURN TO PAGE 48

Saints Spotlight



WHAT A DAY: Saints boss Mauricio Pochettino enjoyed a good day at the office as his side cruised to a 2-0 win over Crystal Palace at St Mary's today.

Pochettino hails a "perfect" day

MAURICIO Pochettino described Saints' 2-0 win over Crystal Palace as his "perfect happiness".

Saints kept up their mean defensive record which has seen them leak just two goals in six league games.

And, just as encouragingly, strike pairing Dani Osvaldo and Rickie Lambert both hit the target in a win that lifted Saints into fourth place.

"I think complete happiness for any manager would be what happened today – a clean sheet and your two strikers getting on the scoresheet," said Pochettino.

"That's perfect happiness for any manager."

He added: "In football you can score in the 90th minute, you can score in the 45th minute or you can score in the first minute.

"In football you never know when the goals are going to come.

"You have to stay focussed, keep mentally focussed on the game.

"In the second half we were much better than the first half and over the 90 minutes we were the better team."

PRESSURE'S



GOAL: Dani Osvaldo celebrates scoring his first goal for Saints.

Gordon Simpson

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SPORTS REPORTER

IN the space of two magnificent second half minutes today, a weight was lifted from the shoulders of Dani Osvaldo and Rickie Lambert.

Saints' star strikers had both endured a slow start to the season coming into the game against Crystal Palace, with Lambert's penalty on the opening day of the campaign the only goal between them.

But they both found the net at St Mary's this afternoon with finishes of enormous quality.

The celebrations after each goal told you all you needed to know about what they meant to them, as well as their teammates, with every outfield player mobbing them after their respective strikes.

A lot of focus has been placed on Osvaldo and Lambert since the Italian international's arrival, with the main question being can they coexist?

Mauricio Pochettino has always said they can, and, while they are still finding their way together, today provided further evidence to suggest he is correct.

Both players certainly needed a breakthrough.

"I am a little anxious for the goal that does not come," Osvaldo had written on Twitter after last weekend's wonderful win at Anfield.

In the end, he did not have to wait too long for it to arrive.

His powerful left-foot strike from the edge of the area early in the second half was just reward for an impressive display this afternoon.

The Italian is a player of incredible vision and skill, with some of his touches quite breathtaking, and his goal today surely promises to be the

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Saints Spotlight

RELEASED



PARTY TIME: Saints players celebrate Rickie Lambert's goal.

first of many in a Saints shirt.

He will do well, though, to reach the 199 that Lambert now stands on.

The Saints forward has cut a frustrated figure in the past few weeks, following a series of fruitless days in attack.

Pochettino spoke this week of how the 31-year-old is having to come to

terms with the pressures and expectations of being an England international this season, and the extra demands that is placing on him.

"There is a new situation Rickie Lambert is going through – he's 31-years-old and only now in the international side and there is a lot of expectation placed on him," the

Saints boss said.

"He needs to be able to withstand and adapt to that mental pressure and that physical pressure that he is facing at the moment.

"We are very happy and pleased with how he's playing, very happy with his contributions to the team and I have no doubts the goals will start coming from him as well."

Pochettino's confidence was well placed. Lambert's free-kick two minutes after Osvaldo had opened the scoring was a thing of beauty, bending up and over the wall, before cannoning in off the near post.

Lambert has been so desperate to impress this season, particularly as he bids to hold on to the England place he has worked so hard to obtain.

There was never any doubt he would find his scoring touch, but his reaction spoke of a sense of relief, and his subsequent high-five with Pochettino was perhaps a show of thanks for the manager's unstinting faith in him.

Pochettino also revealed this week how he has been asking Lambert to add a new dimension to his game this term.

"The only thing that we are trying to make him see is that he needs to be more mobile, he can move a lot more around the pitch and he doesn't have to be static in one place," he said. "We are trying to make him understand how to interpret the open spaces where he can roam.

"He is already a dynamic player but we want him to increase that even more."

Often dropping deeper to play off Osvaldo, running the channels, and pulling wide, it appeared Lambert was doing his best to follow his new orders.

The highlight, though, was the sumptuous free-kick.

With Osvaldo and Lambert now firing, Saints are looking an even more threatening force in this division.



GET IN: Rickie Lambert celebrates his goal with boss Mauricio Pochettino.



TANGLE: Steven Davis gets to grips with Palace's Jimmy Kebe.

Hughes sees red as Cherries have a day to forget

OFF-COLOUR Cherries were mercilessly put to the sword by a clinical Blackburn side whose performance was inspired by unplayable Norwegian international Josh King.

Championship goal machine Jordan Rhodes bagged a brace while returning strike partner and former Cherries loanee Leon Best scored one of several presentable chances to hand Rovers an unassailable three-goal lead at the interval.

But it was former Manchester United star King who was instrumental in Cherries' downfall with an imperious display that led the likes of Simon Francis and Tommy Elphick a merry dance all afternoon.

Eddie Howe shuffled his shell-shocked Cherries pack at half time, but the dismissal of experienced midfielder Richard Hughes, pictured below, for two bookings inside five second half minutes put paid to any hopes of a fightback.

Livewire Ryan Fraser, whose lively display as a second half substitute was one of few positives for the hosts, grabbed his first senior goal to reduce the arrears with 16 minutes to play.

But the game was already up as an effective and well-drilled Rovers outfit continued to press and probe a home side that lacked their usual verve and tempo.

Howe made one change to his starting line-up with Shaun MacDonald replacing Hughes in the middle of the park, but stuck with the 3-4-1-2 formation implemented at Middlesbrough.

In a lively opening Tokelo Rantie had a goal ruled out for offside after Brett Pitman had centred following a quickly taken short corner.

But Cherries were architects of their own downfall as Blackburn pressed and forced nervous back-passes in areas that made the home crowd wriggle uncomfortably in their seats.

During an erratic couple of minutes Jordan Rhodes raced away only for Ryan Allsop to gather at his feet before Best charged down Steve Cook's ball back to his keeper.

Cherries never truly recovered from those lapses and a simple but effective move saw goal machine Rhodes open the scoring in the 10th minute.

King rolled Best down the left whose fierce low centre was met by Rhodes's stooping header which found Allsop's bottom left corner. Elliott Ward forced a rou-

tine save from Jake Kean at the other end but was fortunate not to concede a penalty moments later when his flailing arm caught a deep cross from the right.

Cherries found themselves penned in their own half and Allsop did well to punch away Rhodes's swirling 20-yard free kick after Shaun MacDonald had lunged at King.

Rattled Cherries continued to retreat and it came as no surprise when Tom Cairney threatened on-rushing midfielder Corry Evans through to drive across the exposed Allsop's goal for Best to apply a simple far post finish.

King and Cairney twice combined to set up the former Newcastle striker, but Cherries' reprieve didn't last as a simple ball down the channel left them exposed once more.

Tommy Elphick sent King sprawling to give referee Rob Lewis no option but to point to the spot with Rhodes confidently stroking home from 12 yards.

Rantie continued to try and liven up the shell-shocked hosts but visiting skipper Scott Dann was on hand to halt his direct run with a brave block.

Embattled boss Howe shuffled his pack at half-time, reverting to 4-4-2 with Ryan Fraser replacing Brett Pitman and Steve Cook moving across to left back.

But any plans to settle down the contest quickly went up in smoke when Hughes, who

had been booked for a late lunge on Cairney less than 30 seconds after the restart, clattered Evans from behind five minutes later and was inevitably dismissed.

But the hosts held it together and Cherries went close when Rantie teed up Pugh to rattle Kean's post.

Rovers remained dangerous on the break but Cherries kept plugging away and almost snatched a lifeline when Marc Pugh's inswinging free kick was met on the volley by Elphick whose crisp effort was beaten away by Kean.

And the home crowd finally had a goal to celebrate when Rantie dropped deep and turned Hanley to play Fraser in to roll a delicious pass into Kean's bottom left corner with 16 minutes to play.

Buoyed by his first career goal, Fraser was just crowded out moments later with Grabban's snap-shot comfortably held by Kean as Cherries threatened to build up a head of steam.

But Rovers soon settled and Rhodes's daisy cutter was as close anyone came to another goal as the match petered out.



Down Memory Lane



September 28, 1957

Two goals each for Don Roper and debutant Brian Clifton and one for John Hoskins helped Saints thrash eventual Third Division South champions Brighton & Hove Albion 5-0.

September 28, 1985

Despite a Bryan Robson penalty being saved by Peter Shilton, Manchester United beat Saints 1-0 at Old Trafford. The only goal was scored by Mark Hughes in the last 15 minutes.

September 28, 1991

Ian Wright plundered a hat-trick as Arsenal romped to a 4-0 victory at The Dell. The late David Rocastle was also on target.

September 29 1973

Bobby Stokes, Paul Gilchrist and Mick Channon all scored to end Saints' run of four straight First Division defeats as they beat Sheffield United 3-0 at The Dell. However, Saints were still relegated at the end of the season.

September 29, 1979

Phil Boyer bagged a hat-trick and Mick Channon got the other as Saints crushed Derby County 4-0



GOAL: Boyer scores against Derby in 1979.

at The Dell. It was one of Boyer's three Dell hat-tricks in the league that season.

September 30 1989

Matt Le Tissier scored both of Saints' goals as they were held 2-2 at The Dell by Wimbledon. Le Tissier's second goal was his first penalty for the club.

October 3 1981

Despite falling behind within half a minute, goals from Kevin Keegan, Steve Moran and two from Dave Armstrong gave Saints a dramatic 4-3 victory over Bobby Robson's Ipswich Town in a thrilling Dell encounter.

October 3 1987

Graeme Sharp's hat-trick for Everton was completed within the first 20 minutes at the Dell as Everton stroled to a 4-0 victory at The Dell. Sharp added a fourth in the second half before Andy Townsend was sent off.

October 4 1986

Although Newcastle took the lead through Andy Thomas, Saints turned the game around thanks to a hat-trick from Colin Clarke, his second of the season. Mark Dennis completed a 4-1 victory.

October 4 1999

Marian Pahars, Matt Oakley and Stuart Ripley put Saints 3-1 up before the Rams staged a late fightback thanks to Jacob Laursen and Mikkel Beck.

A MISSED CHANCE TO ATTRACT FUTURE FANS



MISSED OPPORTUNITY: Kelvin Davis looks out on an empty Kingland Stand during the win against Bristol City.

IT'LL be interesting to see if St Mary's was close to capacity for the visit of Captain Carrot Cruncher and his Crystal Palace team this weekend.

With the amount of money invested in Saints, it would be fair to hope for close to capacity crowds, something to justify the huge outlay the club has made.

The crowd of 8,539 for the visit of Bristol City could be said to be disappointing considering the fact that Saints are top seven and were playing on the back of a victory at Anfield.

That said, the League Cup is sadly never that big a draw until the chance of a trip to Wembley is dangled in front of the fans.

And Bristol City are hardly that big a draw, are they? Add to that a Tuesday midweek game and you have all the ingredients for a two thirds empty ground.

It was a perfect opportunity to drop the prices, get bums on seats and get the next generation of Saints fans in the ground and addicted to Saints early on.

It can be rightly viewed as a missed opportunity for the club.

Admittedly, the prices may well have been forced on the club by Bristol but it still appears to be a lack of foresight on behalf of the club.

It will be interesting to see how we fare this season in terms of attendances.

I suspect we'll find that apart from the big five teams, we'll see St



Mary's pretty much hovering over that 30,000 mark which either means that's our natural level or, with a little bit of effort, we could be selling out week in, week out.

I had an interesting conversation with a Pompey fan in regards to attendances.

He was very upbeat and full of himself at the prospect of Fratton Park being three quarters full which, admittedly, is rather good for League 2.

Until you start to look at the various discounts and the fact that Trust members get a further discount.

You then have the novelty value of the fans owning the club.

Therefore, big gates for League 2 aren't that much of a surprise, especially when you consider that if they paid by cash fans received a further free game.

If they paid by July 13 they will have received a further free game, and if they held a season ticket in any of the last three years they would be entitled to another free game.

Trust shareholders received a further free game.

They could apparently get up to nine free games, bringing the lowest cost of an adult season ticket

anywhere in the stadium to £280 – or around £12 per match.

Great value, when you pass a cursory glance at it.

It would have been great value until it was announced that nearly £100,000 a month is being paid to ex-players alone.... for the next three years.

If you bear in mind that money to ex-players is the equivalent of 5,000 seats then, on the basis of about two games a month, Pompey lose 2,500 fans worth of revenue every game.

You can be sure that 15,000 figure will drop dramatically when the reality of a second and third season in League 2 beckons.

Right now, the big crowds are a bit of a plus but the harsh reality is that in League 2 matchday revenue is all that keeps you going. That money pit of £100,000 a month will be ridiculously difficult to fill.

How does that affect Saints?

Not in the slightest.

But it does give us a startling indication as to how important laying the foundations for the future is.

Right now, Sky money is the most important factor for any Premier League club and it's that reliance on that cash stream rather than attendance money that dictates

ticketing prices.

But it's more than just revenue, it's laying the foundations for the fans of the future.

If I had my way, I'd be liaising with a local coach or bus company and arranging coach travel to Staplewood to get people watching the Academy and Reserve team games and getting the young fans free admittance to watch those games whilst paying a nominal amount for transport.

The next generation of Saints fans are slowly being priced out of the modern game.

For a family to take their children to a game would cost close to £100 which, by anyone's standards, is a lot of money.

When a trip to the football is on a par with a trip to the theatre then something is seriously wrong.

Football is still very much a thriving sport/industry and, whilst the Premier League is high profile and profitable, then the fans that get priced out of the game tend to get forgotten about.

We should never price the working man/woman out of football.

Who knows, the English Lionel Messi could be about to be turned away from a football ground as we speak, about to abandon his dreams of being a professional footballer and apply for a trade far, far away from the sport he loves but can't afford to follow.

Football is supposed to be the game of the people, for the people.

Let's make sure it remains that way...

Paine's World

The Saints legend's **EXCLUSIVE** column on all things football



Life after Bale: so far so good ...

GARETH Bale's world record transfer to Real Madrid left many football fans questioning whether or not Spurs would be able to cope without him.

Despite being the biggest spenders in Britain, and the third biggest in all of Europe, the White Hart Lane faithful will no doubt have been anxious to see whether their plethora of new attacking talent could adequately replace Bale.

Yet, after emerging victorious in eight of their nine competitive matches so far this season, scoring 22 times and conceding only once, it seems André Villas-Boas and Daniel Levy have proved the doubters wrong.

They have seemingly created a team ready to establish its place in the top four this season.

Spurs now have their strongest squad in recent memory.

The summer arrivals of the talented Christian Eriksen, Paulinho and Étienne Capoue have fitted in seamlessly in the middle of the park, complementing the already impressive Moussa

Dembélé and Brazilian hard man Sandro.

Big-money signings Erik Lamela and Nacer Chadli also provide versatility, pace and flair out wide, something only Aaron Lennon could offer post Bale's departure.

A quick glance over the names attributed to Spurs' squad this season shows their strength in depth.

BALE

There are now options for AVB, allowing him to rotate his squad as the fixtures require, without too much worry.

That is something his understrength Spurs side showed with their 4-0 demolition of Aston Villa in the Capital One Cup on Tuesday.

If there is one area for concern, however, it remains up front.

Spanish striker Roberto Soldado arrived for big money in the summer and has thus far looked at home.

But the reliance on the Spaniard and his strike partner Jermain Defoe may count against Spurs as the season wears on.

Despite an impressive early-season return of six goals in three starts for Defoe, there is a worry among Spurs fans that both their first-choice strikers possess similar qualities.

Emmanuel Adebayor would provide a useful alternative, but he is well out of favour.

Spurs' reliance on the diminutive men up top was set to be further tested this weekend as AVB faced up to his mentor, José Mourinho.

There have been whispers in the game from journalists, pundits and even Mourinho himself that Tottenham should be taken seriously as title contenders.

If AVB's men are to prove their title credentials, this weekend represents a good place to start.

CHELSEA'S CULTURE CLASH...



THE second coming of the "Special One" has hardly been as meteoric as his first appearance on these shores.

It was always going to be difficult for José Mourinho to live up to the billing, especially after a chastising experience in Madrid.

His return received the expected fanfare, but the honeymoon was rather short-lived.

Defeat to Everton was followed by a home surrendering against FC Basle and already questions are being asked.

Such is the nature of modern day football that it is almost impossible to live on past glories.

Roberto Mancini was shown the door just one year after leading Manchester City to the league title. Win or face the axe, it's simple.

Of course, with the history that Mourinho shares with the club and their hands-on owner, winning may not be enough.

Roman Abramovich aspires to a certain brand of football, which made the reappointment of

Mourinho all the more surprising.

The Russian has spent huge sums of cash purchasing footballers that play a certain way, only to bring in a manager that expects something different.

The clashes were bound to happen as Mourinho sifted through his massive squad to find his best team.

Just a few games into his second coming, we're already seeing the Mourinho effect.

The ostracism of Juan Mata is a perfect case in point.

Player of the year in each of the previous two seasons, Mata was often the first name on the team sheet under previous regimes.

Last Saturday, as Chelsea toiled to break down a rather mediocre Fulham team, he watched on from the stands, seemingly sur-

plus to requirements. The reasoning from Mourinho has been direct and to the point, alluding to Mata's lack of defensive ethic and his decision that Oscar is the first choice number 10 at Stamford Bridge.

While there is no doubt that the young Brazilian has a tireless work ethic, would Mata not be able to offer a spark from the bench should they need it?

It is not the first time Mourinho has taken a creative player to task over their lack of defensive discipline.

Joe Cole faced similar criticisms, and despite scoring the winning goal against Liverpool in 2004, Mourinho's post-match interview was far from flattering toward the diminutive Englishman.

"Joe can be a regular but he has to improve when the team needs him to be part of a defensive organisation," he said.

There have been rumblings of a conspiracy theory surrounding Mourinho's rather acrimonious relationship with Spanish football of late.

While it certainly adds a bit of spice to the mix, the belief that this is anything but football-related is nonsensical.

Mourinho is many things, but one thing he holds higher than any other is his philosophy about how a team should function.

At present, Mata doesn't fit into those plans, no matter how many assists or goals he notches up.

Another player seemingly on the outside looking in is David Luiz.

The Brazilian was a star performer for his country as they claimed the Confederations Cup over the summer, but has found himself on the outskirts following his return to Stamford Bridge.

And another player that was given extremely short shrift by Mourinho is Romelu Lukaku.

Following an impressive pre-season he was shipped off for another season-long loan, this time to Everton, and they are already reaping the rewards.

The Belgian seemed a perfect fit for Mourinho, but instead he chose the safety of a former player in Samuel Eto'o.

As one often does when faced with a problem, Mourinho reverted back to his old ways, an ex-player and a system that has long since progressed in the decade since he "perfected" it.

The game has changed, and with it the Premier League.

His devotion to counter-attacking football built on defensive solidity has so far hindered his team's progress.

Gone are the days of allowing lesser teams like Swansea to have the ball for long periods of play. These teams are now good enough to break you down, as shown by Everton's victory at Goodison Park.

Mourinho will be given time, but as his team continue to labour through matches, questions will start being asked.

Saints Spotlight

SAINTS' FIRST TEAM FIXTURES AND RESULTS 2013/14



AUGUST
Sat 17 West Brom(A)
Sat 24 **Sunderland**(H)
Tue 27 Barnsley (CCC 2)(A)
Sat 31 Norwich(A)

W 1-0
D 1-1
W 5-1
L 0-1

Boruc
Boruc
K Davis
Boruc

Chambers
Chambers
Clyne
Chambers

Fonte
Fonte 1
Fonte
Fonte

Lovren
Lovren
Yoshida
Lovren

Shaw
Shaw
Fox
Fox

Wanyama
Wanyama
Cork
Wanyama

Schneiderlin
Schneiderlin
S Davis 2
Schneiderlin

W-Prowse***
W-Prowse
Isgrove
W-Prowse

Lallana*
Lallana***
Ramirez 1
Osvaldo***

Rodriguez**
Rodriguez
Rodriguez 1**
Lallana*

Lambert 1
Lambert
Mayuka* 1**
Lambert

Ramirez*
Clyne*
Rowe*
Ramirez*

S Davis**
Osvaldo**
Reed**
S Davis**

Cork***
Ramirez***
Sinclair***
Rodriguez***

SEPTEMBER
Sun 15 West Ham(H)
Sat 21 Liverpool(A)
Tue 24 Bristol City (CCC 3) (H)
Sat 28 Crystal Palace(H)

D 0-0
W 1-0
W 2-0

Boruc
Boruc
K Davis

Clyne
Clyne
Chambers

Fonte
Fonte
Yoshida

Lovren
Lovren 1
Hooiveld 1

Shaw**
Shaw
Fox

Wanyama
Wanyama
Cork

Schneiderlin
Schneiderlin
S Davis***

Rodriguez
Rodriguez**
W-Prowse

Osvaldo
Osvaldo
Ramirez 1

Lallana*
Lallana**
Do Prado**

Lambert
Lambert*
Lee*

W-Prowse*
S Davis*
Rodriguez*

Chambers**
W-Prowse**
Reed**

Cork***
Cork***
Rowe***

OCTOBER
Sat 5 Swansea(H)
Sat 19 Man United(A)
Sat 26 Fulham(H)

NOVEMBER
Sat 2 Stoke(A)
Sat 9 Hull(A)
Sat 23 Arsenal(A)

DECEMBER
Sun 1 Chelsea(A)
Wed 4 Aston Villa(H)
Sat 7 Manchester City(H)
Sat 14 Newcastle(A)
Sat 21 Tottenham(H)
Thu 26 Cardiff(A)
Sat 28 Everton(A)

JANUARY
Wed 1 Chelsea(H)
Sat 11 West Brom(H)
Sat 18 Sunderland(A)
Tue 28 Arsenal(H)

FEBRUARY
Sat 1 Fulham(A)
Sat 8 Stoke(H)
Tue 11 Hull(A)
Sat 22 West Ham(A)

MARCH
Sat 1 Liverpool(H)
Sat 8 Crystal Palace(A)
Sat 15 Norwich(H)
Sat 22 Tottenham(A)
Sat 29 Newcastle(H)

APRIL
Sat 5 Manchester City(A)
Sat 12 Cardiff(H)
Sat 19 Aston Villa(A)
Sat 26 Everton(H)

MAY
Sat 3 Swansea(A)
Sun 11 Man United(H)

The league comes first... or does it?

"I WILL sit down tonight and watch Teletext for three hours, just to look at where we are in the table."

Those were the words of Gordon Strachan, almost 11 years ago after Saints beat Birmingham to go sixth in the Premier League.

It's safe to say that many fans would have been doing the same this week – if Teletext was still around – to marvel at the sight at Manchester United being below Southampton.

Yes, it's early in the season. And, yes, it means next to nothing in the long term, but who doesn't like the chance to lord it over United?

However, as enjoyable as the win at Anfield was (like United, Liverpool are another team most football supporters take great joy in bringing down a peg or two) it may be the second-string's win in midweek that could bring more immediate benefits.

Not that Saints shouldn't be aiming high in the league, but the cups provide much better odds of silverware.

The League Cup especially, comes in for a fair bit of derision, but if you stand a chance of winning it, suddenly its worth becomes apparent. Indeed, remember how Pompey fans mocked over the JPT win – only to embrace it last season (with little success, admittedly).

Often the old adage "concentrate on the league" is thrown about, usually as an excuse

for poor performances in cup competition.

There is no reason a group of professionals cannot focus on two or three tournaments at once and to claim otherwise is a disservice to supporters and a get out clause for players and managers alike.

Swansea and Wigan showed last year that cup success is available for all, that's why it's heartening to hear Saints players refer to 'doing a Swansea' who did well in both league and cup last year.

Indeed, Wigan are the only ever FA Cup winner to be relegated in the same season – suggesting that normally, cup success does not necessarily equal poor league performance. The exception that proves the rule, if you will.

Ultimately, it comes down to mental attitude. Focus and determination – and I appreciate this is a little bit cheesy, much like an inspiring corporate poster – are at the heart of successful teams.

The margins between players in professional football in terms of talent and ability are magnified by mental approach. QPR had the talent last year but not the application.

Pochettino seems to be trying to nurture both – indeed Adkins and Pardew did so before him – and is to be commended for doing so, especially as it is a fine line to tread.

So far, it seems to be working and provided the team can remain relatively successful and still be grounded, there is no reason not to be optimistic about what Saints can achieve this season.



LEAGUE FORM: Former Saints boss Gordon Strachan.

	LA	LG	CA	CG	CSA	CSG
KELVIN DAVIS	0	0	2	0	285(1)	0
PAULO GAZZANIGA	0	0	0	0	11	0
ARTUR BORUC	5	0	0	0	26	0
NATHANIEL CLYNE	2(1)	0	1	0	37(1)	1
CALUM CHAMBERS	3(1)	0	1	0	4(2)	0
DEJAN LOVREN	5	0	0	0	5	0
JOSE FONTE	5	1	1	0	147(3)	13
JOS HOOIVELD	0	0	1	1	67(3)	9
MAYA YOSHIDA	0	0	2	0	35(1)	0
LUKE SHAW	4(1)	0	0	0	28(6)	0
DANNY FOX	1	0	2	0	55(10)	1
JACK STEPHENS	0	0	0	0	0(1)	0

	LA	LG	CA	CG	CSA	CSG
JACK CORK	0(2)	0	2	0	98(10)	0
VICTOR WANYAMA	5	0	0	0	5	0
MORGAN SCHNEIDERLIN	5	0	0	0	0172(28)	8
ADAM LALLANA	5	0	0	0	0205(23)	50
STEVE DAVIS	0(2)	0	2	2	25(13)	4
JAMES WARD-PROWSE	3(2)	0	1	0	14(14)	1
JASON PUNCHEON	0	0	0	0	70(10)	10
LLOYD ISGROVE	0	0	1	0	1(1)	0
OMAR ROWE	0	0	0(2)	0	0(2)	0
JAKE SINCLAIR	0	0	0(1)	0	0(1)	0
GASTON RAMIREZ	0(2)	0	2	2	22(8)	7
GULY DO PRADO	0	0	1	0	78(28)	22

	LA	LG	CA	CG	CSA	CSG
RICKIE LAMBERT	5	1	0	0	0191(10)	104
JAY RODRIGUEZ	4	0	1(1)	1	31(12)	10
DANI OSVALDO	3(1)	0	0	0	3(1)	0
TADANARI LEE	0	0	1	0	8(5)	2
EMMANUEL MAYUKA	0	0	1	1	3(10)	1
BILLY SHARP	0	0	0	0	12(6)	10
ANDY ROBINSON	0	0	0	0	0(1)	0
HARRISON REED	0	0	0(2)	0	0(2)	0

KEY: LA: league appearances. LG: league goals. CA: cup appearances. CG: cup goals. CSA: career Saints appearances. CSG: career Saints goals.

Adam Rant



This week's big talking points
with **Adam Leitch**

Cut up over Haye KO

THERE still seem unanswered questions as to exactly how David Haye ended up sustaining a cut bad enough that he had to postpone his fight with Tyson Fury due for this weekend.

But at least the two will still face off in the ring in February.

To suggest the cut was some sort of premeditated plan on Haye's behalf to buy himself some more time, or to upset Fury, seems too far-

fetched, even though Haye is tactically astute when it comes to all matters of his career.

A fair question, though, is this: How, so close to a fight, he put himself in a position for this to happen?

We all know boxing is a dangerous, contact sport, and cuts are common place.

But it is odd that Haye, pictured right, should be putting himself in a position whereby such an injury could be sus-

tained so close to a major fight.

Normally by that stage all the hard work is done. There isn't close quarters work taking place whereby a boxer could get hit that badly, even by a cuffing punch, or a clash of heads.

Why exactly was he sparring at night, and, rumour has it, wearing a head guard with only moderate protection?

There are more questions than answers.



Boost in Capital ...

IT'S more happy coincidence than a revitalised love for the competition has seen 13 Premier League clubs reach the last 16 of the Capital One Cup.

There was barely a first team regular in sight for top flight clubs in the third round this week.

The competition is still being used as a competitive reserve team fixture and a chance to blood youngsters.

You could argue that there is no harm in that, but if that is the case then there should be changes across the board, possibly incentivised by the Football League itself, to lower ticket prices to try and fill stadiums.

We seem to live in this bizarre world where even League One teams will consider resting players for the competition.

We all know it's devalued massively from its pomp.

Yet nobody really wants to admit it and face the consequences – scrap it or embrace the good things it can do and pack out these grounds with people who do not normally have either the money, or inclination, to go to professional football matches.

CARRYING THE CANIO

... but it's
**Sunderland chiefs
who should
take the blame**

PAOLO Di Canio may have carried the can for a turbulent time at Sunderland, but it's those who have overseen his reign who deserve to be in the spotlight.

Ultimately, Sunderland got what they wanted out of Di Canio.

They surely did their homework and knew about his unconventional management style.

They decided that an injection of his personality, charisma and unorthodox methods might be just the change they needed to keep them in the Premier League.

Somehow or other, it worked too.

Di Canio did manage to avoid relegation and Sunderland breathed a huge sigh of relief.

No matter whether you agreed with his appointment in the first place, no matter whether you thought it was morally correct – given the political baggage he brought with him that was discussed at the time – the Sunderland chiefs were surely patting themselves on the back.

The most important thing when you are running a business is the bottom line, and Sunderland's bottom line depended on staying in the Premier League.

However they had achieved it was almost irrelevant.

So then, this summer, they looked to the future.

That meant they allowed Di Canio to bring in almost an entire squad of new players.

Just five Premier League games



SCAPEGOAT: Paolo Di Canio.

into the season, they had sacked him.

What a complete and utter farce.

It was always going to be hard to make Di Canio's style work at the highest level.

There is only so much eccentricity and ranting that top flight players, with their massive salaries and the power that they now wield, will take of that.

In the end it proved too much and he was gone.

But while Di Canio is carrying the can, it's worth looking a little deeper.

Exactly why was he allowed to make all these changes in the summer if there was so little faith in him that they were prepared to sack him after just five league games of the new season, rather than allow him the time to gel his numerous new signings?

Ultimately, this is not Di Canio's fault.

He followed the same bizarre path he had done as a player and as a manager.

Sunderland knew what they were getting, and they were happy enough with the results when he kept them up.

If that was all he was good for, then that was the time to make a change, not let him overhaul everything and then show him the door.

Yet again the manager is handed the vast majority of the blame while those behind the decisions are allowed far greater leniency.

It is remarkable that a lot of chairmen and chief executives at top flight football clubs are now paid multi-million pound salaries, and yet are not held to account in the same way as their managers are.

What has happened at Sunderland has been a shambles.

You can only feel sorry for the fans who have had to watch powerless from the stands as this comic tragedy unfolded.



MICHAEL CARBERRY

Selectors see sense

FANTASTIC news for Michael Carberry, who got a deserved call-up for the England squad to travel to Australia to defend the Ashes this winter.

Whether he will make it to the crease in a Test match remains to be seen, but he is next in line for an opening spot.

Adam Rant will confess he feared for Carberry's chances after a not entirely successful one-day series.

Thankfully the selectors have seen, quite rightly, that he was partly a victim of circumstance at times and that his form for his county has been truly outstanding.

Carberry could still be an England batsman for a few years to come, but needs a chance to establish himself, and ideally not just get thrust in for an occasional Test here or there. That might still be more unlikely than likely, but he is on the plane and that's the first step.

SOUTHERN
Daily Echo

FIND THE BALL



THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT £49,000

or £3,150 nearest miss prize...

PLUS 70 consolation prizes of £15 each week**20 for Southern Daily Echo
20 for Daily Echo Bournemouth
10 for Dorset Echo
10 for Sunday Independent
10 for Brighton Argus**

FIND THE BALL is a test of skill and football knowledge and is open to readers of the Southampton, Bournemouth, Dorset Echos, Brighton Argus and Sunday Independent, Plymouth.

You have to use your skill and judgement to determine the exact centre of the ball.

Mark an X with a ballpoint pen on the picture where you consider that position to be – clear rubber stamps and self adhesive labels will also be accepted.

Every coupon will be carefully examined and the jackpot prize will be paid to the entrant whose cross marks the exact centre of the ball when the photograph was taken.

If the Jackpot is not won, £1,000 will be added to next week's jackpot and £50 will be added to the nearest-miss prize.

The nearest-miss prize will be paid out to the competitor whose cross is nearest to the centre of the ball when there is no jackpot winner.

When a jackpot has been won the next week's prize reverts back to £6,000 and the nearest-miss prize at £1,000.

If the Jackpot is not won after 45 weeks, when standing at £50,000, three nearest miss prizes will be awarded totalling £24,000 – with a first prize of £12,000, a second prize of £8,000 and a third prize of £4,000.

The jackpot for the following week will be £26,000 with £1,000 being added each week. The nearest miss prize will be £2,000 with £50 added each week until the jackpot prize reaches £50,000.

If there is still no entry showing the exact centre of the ball, the process is repeated until there is an exact centre of the ball winner.

If there is more than one winner the jackpot will be shared and, similarly, if there is more than one runner-up the nearest miss prize will also be shared.

RESULTS



CLOSING DATE FOR POSTAL ENTRIES
Thursday
9am,
3 Oct
2013
Names of winners will be published on
**Saturday,
5 Oct
or Sunday
6 Oct
2013**

An incident in an Eastleigh v Bromley match

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Please use black/blue ink and capitals

28 September, 2013

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Daily Echo

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Dorset Echo
Closing time Monday

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10.00 am Tuesday
Dorset Echo
Closing time Monday

A list of participating newsagents will be published in the Echos on the first Saturday of each month

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Cheques payable to Newsquest

Winners

Competition number **S36**

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who wins the nearest miss prize of £3,100

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Mrs M Barker, Southampton, Hants
Mr D Bradbury, Southampton, Hants
Mr O Divers, Hythe, Hants
Mr E Gibson, Southampton, Hants
Miss J Goddard, Southampton, Hants
Mrs E Goulding, Southampton, Hants
Mr A Greenham, Southampton, Hants
Mr I Gudgeon, Southampton, Hants
Mr R Hatfield, Southampton, Hants

Ms G Jacca, Southampton, Hants
Mrs W Lemarchal, Southampton, Hants
Mr C Lock, Everton, Hants
Mrs E Palmer, Southampton, Hants
Mr E Randall, Southampton, Hants
Mrs V Silence, Southampton, Hants
Ms J Stubbington, Eastleigh, Hants
Miss P Wellman, Southampton, Hants
Mr J Wilson, Southampton, Hants
Mrs G Warn-Wyeth, Southampton, Hants

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1. You are allowed a minimum of 60 crosses and a maximum of 325 per coupon. Coupons with 326 or more will be disqualified. Entries altered defaced or mutilated will be invalid. Crosses must be distinct and separate. **2.** Competitors may submit as many coupons as they wish. Members of a family can send their entries in one envelope with a covering postal order or cheque. **3.** No responsibility can be accepted for entries delayed, lost or mislaid. Proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery. **4.** Payment may be made by postal order or cheque for the correct amount payable to Newsquest, and crossed 'X & Co.' Stamps **will not** be accepted in payment. **5.** A competitor cannot win more than one share of the prize money across all titles each week. **6.** The Editor's decision on winning entry or entries and matters relating to this competition is binding in honour only. **NO CORRESPONDENCE CAN BE ENTERED INTO.** **7.** Employees of NEWSQUEST Media Group and subsidiary companies and members of their families are not eligible to enter the competition. **8.** Address entries to FTB PO Box 24 Competitions, Southampton SO16 9ZD in a sealed envelope. Understamped entries are not accepted. **9.** Prize monies are held for and on behalf of winners. **10.** Do not send cash in the post. **11.** Winners will be required to participate in publicity. **12.** Photocopies not accepted. **13.** For rules go to www.dailyecho.co.uk/promotions/rules, www.newsquest.co.uk/terms or write in for a copy.



Non-league Action

FA Cup, Second Qualifying Round: Eastleigh 4 Mangotsfield 0

EASY PICKINGS FOR EASTLEIGH

Wendy Gee

wendy.gee@dailyecho.co.uk

NON-LEAGUE REPORTER

EASTLEIGH breezed into the third qualifying round of the FA Cup with an easy 4-0 win over ten-man Mangotsfield United this afternoon.

The Spitfires led the Southern One South & West visitors 3-0 at half-time before young substitute Sam Wilson put the icing on the cake.

Kick-off was delayed to 3.15pm due to a car-load of Eastleigh players being held up in traffic on the M25.

With right-back Damian Batt absent, the Spitfires brought in Will Evans for his first start of the campaign following a knee injury picked up in pre-season.

Following determined play by Liam Monelle, it was the lower league visitors who forced the first corner with three minutes gone.

Eastleigh made a mess of dealing with it, but finally scrambled the ball clear after Alex Kite had had a stab at goal.

But it didn't take long for the Conference South leaguers to stamp their class as they took the lead with six minutes gone.

Evans played a key part, delivering a deep ball from the right. Stuart Fleetwood clipped it back across from beyond the back post and Jai Reason was there to fire past ex-Salisbury City keeper Kevin Sawyer.

Evans featured again on 11 minutes, playing a neat one-two with Craig McAllister inside the box. But he was running towards the left of goal and was well closed down by Sawyer as he tried to get a shot away.

The Mangos, who won 2-1 at Winchester City with ten men in the previous round, again showed their battling qualities to frustrate an Eastleigh side who had yet to hit top gear.

There was a hold-up while Mangos skipper Neil Arndale was down having treatment and it was the Spitfires who threatened when play resumed – Jamie Collins taking a high ball down and instantly playing in Reason whose shot on



GOAL: Jai Reason celebrates opening the scoring for Eastleigh.

the run went straight at Sawyer.

On 26 minutes United's Jamie Reid took issue with a challenge by Reason and pushed the Eastleigh midfielder as he sat on the ground.

Reid got a yellow card and, with skipper Arndale still struggling, he was replaced by substitute Kyle Tooze with the half-hour mark approaching.

Those disruptions appeared to work against the visitors as Eastleigh doubled their lead on 31 minutes following a sweet passing move which tore right through the heart of the Mangos defence.

Reason and McAllister were both involved along with Glen Southam, and it was the industrious skipper who polished it off, stroking the ball past Sawyer from just inside the area.

With Eastleigh now hitting their stride, Reason found McAllister, whose strike was blocked by Sawyer with Ben Strevens hitting the follow-up wide.

Then, following a fine solo run by Fleetwood, Eastleigh forced another corner and Jamie Collins found

Reason free on the edge of the area and the No 10 screeched a first-time volley inches over.

Mangotsfield's afternoon continued to go downhill as they were dealt a double blow leading up to the break.

First Fleetwood made it 3-0 with a neat finish following a well-worked free kick on the right and then Reid received a second yellow for dissent, leaving the Bristol side with ten men for the second time in a fortnight.

Eastleigh made a low-key start to the second half, seemingly conserving their energy for bigger battles to come.

With 52 minutes gone, manager Richard Hill withdrew skipper Southam and gave Romone Rose a run.

Three minutes later left-back Michael Green advanced into the box where he was picked out by Fleetwood and tested Sawyer with a fierce, angled shot which was turned behind by the keeper via the upright.

Reason, who was getting under the Mangos' skin, then earned a

couple of free kicks at the expense of Ashley Williams, who was booked for the first challenge and then stupidly tugged the Eastleigh man back just seconds later.

McAllister had an effort disallowed before Mangos defender Ryan Bennett looped the ball narrowly past his own post as Rose, Reason and Fleetwood bore down on goal.

With a crowd of just 238 inside the Silverlake, the game had something of a pre-season feel at times and, with Eastleigh surely guaranteed progression to the next round, Hill gave young striker Sam Wilson his chance in place of Reason.

And it was teenage sub Wilson who grabbed Eastleigh's fourth goal in the 83rd minute.

Strevens picked him out with a dinked ball into the box and the youngster did the rest, clipping it past the sturdy Sawyer from close range.

Eastleigh continued to dominate and McAllister had the chance of a fifth but was blocked out by the over-worked Sawyer at his near post.

Verwood young gun Munday at the double

TEENAGER Dan Munday proved that if you're good enough, you're old enough as Verwood Town progressed to the FA Vase first round proper at the expense of Sydenhams Premier rivals Horndean.

The 16-year-old bagged a brace as the Potters emerged 3-1 winners at Five Heads Park.

Munday struck after just 40 seconds and Verwood hung onto that lead until early in the second half when Lenny Burney headed the Deans level.

John Webb restored the Potters' advantage from the penalty spot after he had been fouled by Chris Clark and it was left to young Munday to set the seal on victory with his second goal of a memorable afternoon.

Town's success also marked the debut of 17-year-old Mark Elsom, who was involved with West Ham United's academy until a year ago and is currently on the fringes of Billericay Town's first team in the Ryman Premier.

The London-based right-back will be available to Verwood on a semi-regular basis and manager Adie Arnold, pictured below, is excited with his new prospect.

"Billericay think very highly of him and I can see why," he said. "He is a very good defender for that age and that is unusual because many young defenders tend to be better going forward."

"I believe defenders should be there to defend first and if they can go forward then that's a bonus. He's an excellent prospect."

While delighted with the youthful element in his side, Arnold feels Town need more experienced leaders to complement their fledgling footballers.

"I am a great believer that young players will progress given the chance and I am very enthusiastic about the current crop," he said.

"This is a very exciting time for the club because if we can keep these lads together they will be the ones to take the club forward in the long term."

"But we haven't got as many points on the board as we would have liked and if we want to progress then the club have got to look at getting a couple of experienced players in."

"Mark Smith is the perfect example at Christchurch, but that kind of player generally costs money and the club need to decide which way they want to go."

Verwood now host Sydenhams One outfit Laverstock & Ford – 1-0 winners at Western Premier side Hengrove Athletic – in the FA Vase first round proper on Saturday, October 19.

Arnold said: "We used to have some good tussles with Laverstock, so we are looking forward to locking horns again."

The Potters kept up the good work on Tuesday, winning 3-2 in the league at Lymington Town through Luke Homer, Russell Dyer and Jack Lovell.



Non-league Football

Non-league News

Pompey loan out Josh

YOUNG Portsmouth defender Josh Warren has joined Skrilk Conference South club Chelmsford City on loan. Warren, a product of Pompey's academy, told his Twitter followers that he was looking forward to getting "some much-needed game time" with Dean Holdsworth's side.

The 18-year-old, Portsmouth-born centre-back had a spell on loan at Bognor Regis Town earlier this year.

Knight quick to impress

FORMER Salisbury City and AFC Totton winger Charlie Knight, below, made a quick impression for his new club Kingstonian.

Knight, who joined the Ks from Bashley last week following a move to London, put in an eye-catching performance last Saturday as they won 2-1 at Hendon to go second in the Ryman Premier Division.

He had a hand in both Kingstonian goals, first heading on a corner for Matthew Drage to convert from two yards out and then crossing for another ex-Bashley and AFC Totton man Ryan Moss to score.

The Ks welcomed yet another familiar name into the fold this week, signing 24-year-old ex-AFC Totton midfielder Nathan Campbell on loan from Basingstoke Town.

Points deduction fear

SYDENHAMS Premier outfit Moneyfields fear they may face a points deduction after playing striker Steve Hutchings without obtaining international clearance.

The former AFC Bournemouth and Havant & Waterlooville forward signed for Melbourne club Shepparton last spring but rejoined Moneys during the summer.

"Steve played for us for three years, spent a short time away and then came back. We never dreamed he'd need international clearance," said Moneys boss Miles Rutherford.

The Sydenhams League will wait to hear what the FA plan to do before taking any action.

Kneesy does it: Eastleigh play it safe with Evans

IF Will Evans had had his way, he would have been part of Eastleigh's matchday squad for last Saturday's 1-0 home win over Hayes & Yeading.

But no way was manager Richard Hill prepared to rush back the 21-year-old, left, prematurely from a serious knee injury sustained in pre-season.

Hill himself was forced into early retirement from the

game following a successful career with Northampton and Oxford United and said: "With a young man especially it's better to err on the side of caution."

"If Will were 29, I might see things a bit differently. But he's not, he's 21, and if he does further damage by being rushed back too soon, then he's stuck with that."

"Obviously I'll be guided by the physio, but I've got vast experience of knee problems and these injuries can last you for life."

"Players can come back and still have successful careers but, if there's a weakness there, it never fully goes back to how it was."

Evans, a summer signing from Hereford United, has been

champing at the bit to be part of league leaders Eastleigh's Conference South promotion push.

But Hill said: "I've taken it out of his hands. We have a duty of care, I suppose."

"Will's not kicked a ball in anger yet this season and he wants to show everyone that he's the player we all think he is."



CALLING THE SHOTS: Hayes & Yeading boss Phil Babb makes a point as Eastleigh's Richard Hill watches on.

Former Football League players good for league, says Spitfires boss

WITH 35 Republic of Ireland caps, two Wembley cup finals and more than 400 senior professional appearances behind him, former Liverpool defender Phil Babb heads a new breed of manager in the Skrilk Conference South.

And for Richard Hill, whose table-topping Eastleigh side beat Babb's Hayes & Yeading 1-0 at the Silverlake Stadium last Saturday, the bigger the name in the opposing dugout, the better.

"Phil Babb has got more football experience than all of us at our level and, with all the good managers and coaches he's worked with at international level, it doesn't take much to channel that experience across to management," said Hill.

"It's commendable what Hayes have done appointing Phil Babb and I think this league should give

more people like him the chance to manage.

"We've already got quite a few managers with Football League playing experience – like Marcus Gayle at Staines, Lee Bradbury at Havant, Dean Holdsworth at Chelmsford, Steve Brown at Ebbsfleet and Tommy Widdrington at Eastbourne – and it's not to be sniffed at."

"It's good that clubs are giving opportunities to people who've played and coached at a decent level rather than keeping the league as a closed shop for those managers who've forged a bit of a career at this level."

"There's been a bit of self-preservation in the past with managers not wanting people coming in and

taking their jobs."

Hill himself boasts an impressive CV. Having played 170 Football League games for Northampton, Watford and Oxford United before injury cut short his playing career, he served a strong managerial apprenticeship assisting the likes of John Gregory at Wycombe Wanderers and QPR and Brian Little at Aston Villa.

But Eastleigh is only his second out-and-out manager's post, following on from a two-year stint with Stevenage Borough in the late 90s, and it may well provide him with a stepping stone – hopefully with the Spitfires themselves – into the Football League.

"Dean Holdsworth's done it and Phil Babb's now been given the opportunity by Hayes to see if he can be any good at management," he said.

"Five years ago, you wouldn't have seen that. They'd have probably given the job to someone who'd

been managing in this league for years."

"But the Conference South doesn't seem to be the closed shop it used to be and that's a good thing in my opinion."

"What did I know about the Conference South when I took over at Eastleigh 12 months ago?"

"Not much."

"But within two months to ten weeks I'd seen enough games to know where the best players are in this league."

Lambeth-born Babb, 42, holds a UEFA B coaching licence, but had no previous managerial experience prior to this season.

But Hayes' director of football Tony O'Driscoll said of his May appointment: "Phil impressed us all with what he knew about us, our players and the level we are playing at. He has an incredible knowledge of the game across all levels and shares our vision in building the club the correct way."

TODAY'S NON-LEAGUE RESULTS – SEE BACK PAGE

Non-league Football

END OF THE DREAM

Vase draw means an early exit for one of Wessex League's big guns

WINCHESTER City and Sholing were united in their disappointment after Monday's FA Vase first round proper draw.

Having dropped down from the Southern League last season, the pair had hoped to enjoy a strong run to the latter rounds of lower non-League's premier cup competition – if not the final.

But for one of them at least, that dream will fizzle out prematurely with the two clubs drawn to meet each other at Winchester's Denplan City Ground on Saturday, October 19.

With Dave Malone now back at the helm as director of football, one of the great challenges for Winchester this season is trying to emulate their magical Vase success of 2003/04 when they beat AFC Sudbury at Birmingham City FC.

It could still happen, but if City are to progress it will be at the expense of a pedigree Sholing side whose squad is virtually unchanged from the one that finished seventh in the Southern One South & West last term.

Ideally the pair would love to have carried the Wessex flag forward together and met at a later stage.

"The draw is absolutely unbelievable and a massive shame for the league," said Winchester boss Graham Kemp, pictured above.

"Both clubs will be disappointed I should imagine because this was a latter stages draw, not one for the early rounds."

Sholing boss Dave Diaper agreed: "It is disappointing. I would like us to have been kept apart a bit longer."

"It seems ironic that, of all the teams there are around, our two names get pulled out at the same time, but I don't buy into any conspiracy theories. The draw's in the lap of the gods and we've just got to get on with it."

The two sides meet in the league at Winchester this Friday (October 4) and had been due to square up again – also at the Denplan City Ground – in the Sydenhams League Cup on Tuesday, October 15.

But that tie has been put back two weeks to Tuesday, October 29 to avoid clashing with the Vase.

Nevertheless it's still three trips to Winchester inside a month for Sholing and manager Diaper said: "We'll be sick to death of each other by the end of October!"

"The fact that all three are away



EARLY GOAL: Sholing's Lee Wort (red/white).

Macey backing Sholing for title

WHITCHURCH United boss Jim Macey is convinced Sholing will win the Sydenhams Premier Division title.

Having pulled off shock wins at Winchester City and Bemerton Heath Harlequins, Macey's top-flight new boys were unable to make it a trio of prized scalp as the Boatmen emerged 2-1 victors at Longmeadow last Saturday.

Whitchurch found themselves two goals down in the space of 25 minutes as Lee Wort and Tyrone Bowers capitalised on Sholing's early power play.

And though Luke Walker pulled United back into it with a penalty awarded for Mike Carter's foul on Isaac Sedu, the Southampton club – who finished seventh in the Southern One South & West last season – held strong for all three points.

After the game Macey, who had tipped Winchester for the title in *The Pink's* pre-season survey of managers, appeared to have had a change of heart.

"If Sholing do not win this league, I would be very surprised," he said.

"We just could not match them early on."

But he added: "I was really pleased with the way my players responded and, once again, we have proved we can mix it with the big boys in this league."

Sholing boss Dave Diaper acknowledged it had taken a top-notch display to beat Whitchurch.

"They had quite a bit of movement, but we played really well and it was a good team performance," he said.

"We knew we had to get out of the blocks first against a side that had beaten Winchester and Bemerton and we managed to keep Whitchurch shots to a minimum in the first half while scoring a couple of good goals ourselves."

"I'm pleased with the way we controlled the game, particularly as we had a few players missing."

Whitchurch produced the perfect response to Saturday's defeat, blitzing Cowes Sports 5-0 in the Sydenhams League Cup on Tuesday.

Walker did the damage with a four-goal salvo to book the Jam Boys a quarter-final berth.

Cowes arrived sitting three points behind Division One leaders Andover Town with a game in hand but were plainly under-strength and United went at them from the off.

Walker got the first four goals, starting with a fizzing 30-yarder and finishing with a hopeful high ball that took a freaky bounce over Cowes' keeper Ed Hatt.

Ashley Ledger made it 5-0 right on the final whistle with Macey later saluting "a professional job" by his team.

Whitchurch are due to return to knockout action on Tuesday, away to Conference South outfit Eastleigh in the Hampshire FA Senior Cup.

Non-league News

Holders at home

HOLDERS Alresford Town have been drawn at home to Craig Davis's Fleet Town in the quarter-finals of the North Hants Senior Cup.

Quarter-final draw: Tadley Calleva v Overton Utd, Stockbridge v Andover New Street, Whitchurch Utd v Andover Town, Alresford Town v Fleet Town.

Town sitting pretty

NEIL Benson was a happy man last weekend as fledgling club Andover Town rose to the Sydenhams One summit with a 4-2 win at Fleet Spurs.

But the Town boss, pictured below, was careful not to get too carried away, pointing out that "only three or four months ago, we had no squad, no ground and only the vestiges of a football club."

Benson

praised goal-

keeper

Michael

Weatherall, who made several outstanding saves, as well as ex-Saint Lloyd Foot and Claudio Herbert who each found the net with strikes that demanded a high skill level.

Tom Riddell was also on target as was former Winchester City frontrunner Michael Dixon who, as usual, terrified the Spurs defence in his 30-minute cameo.

Benson later described the powerful Londoner as "a big asset in the system we play."

Bash back for Colson

SOUTHERN Premier Division strugglers Bashley have resigned midfielder George Colson.

Colson, who had a loan spell with the Foresters last season, was released by Football League outfit Portsmouth in May.

Bessey stands down

RICHARD Bessey has stood down as Hayling United manager by mutual consent.

The Humbugs – relegated from the Sydenhams Premier for ground-grading reasons during the summer – have endured a difficult start to life in Division One.

"The club wish to thank Richard for all he has done and wish him well in his future endeavours," read a club statement.

Wendy Gee

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NON-LEAGUE REPORTER

games is tough for us. We don't seem to get the luck of the draw in cup competitions."

FA Vase first round draw (to be played on Saturday, October 19): 1 Newcastle Benfield v Marske United 2 Jarrow Roofing Boldon CA v Nelson 3 Bridlington Tn v Sunderland RCA 4 Thackley v Eccleshill United 5 North Shield v Crook Tn 6 Billingham Synthonia v Guisborough Town 7 West Auckland Town v South Shield 8 Billingham Town 8 Penrith v Morpeth Town 9 Whickham v Holker Old Boys 10 Cheadle Town v Stockport Sports 11 Glossop North End v Kinsley Boys 12 Garforth Town v Winsford United 13 Rochdale Town v Congleton Town 14 Bootle v Parkgate 15 Bacup v Rossendale Borough 15 Worksop Paramore v Runcorn Linnets 16 AFC Blackpool v Norton United 17 Liversedge v Armthorpe Welfare 18 Chadderton v Athersley Recreation 19 Maine Road v Atherton LR 20 Staveley MW v West Didsbury & Chorlton

21 Bartley Green v Alvechurch 22 Earlswood Town v Causeway United 23 Westfields v Bromsgrove Sports 24 Stourport Swifts v Brocton 25 Coleshill Town v Racing Club Warwick 26 Pelsall Villa v Coventry Sphinx 27 AFC Wulfrunians v Atherstone Town 28 Shawbury United v Bolehall Swifts 29 Dudley Town v Cradley Town 30 Graham St Prims v Harrowby United 31 Sileby Rangers v AFC Mansfield 32 Harborough Town v Cleethorpes Town 33 Heanor Town v Kirby Muxloe 34 Woodford United v AFC Rushden & Diamonds 35 Stewarts & Lloyds Corby v Loughborough University 36 Hucknall Town v Desborough Town 37 Radcliffe Olympic v Holwell Sports 38 Retford United v Oadby Town 39 St Andrews v Lincoln Moorlands Railway 40 Long Eaton United or Ellistown & Ibstock United v Boston Town 41 Blaby & Whetstone Athletic v Holbeach United 42 Norwich United v Bowers & Pitsea 43 Diss Town v Eynesbury Rovers 44 Gorleston v Great Yarmouth Town 45 Walsham Le Willows v Godmanchester Rovers 46 Great Wakering Rovers v Ipswich Wanderers 47 Newmarket Town v Mildenhall Town 48 Huntingdon Town v Thetford Town 49 Brightlingsea Regent v Team Bury 50 Swaffham Town v Hullbridge Sports 51 Tower Hamlets v Haringey Borough 52 Harwell Town v London APSA 53 Oxhey Jets v Stotfold 54 Hillingdon Borough v Hadley 55 Ilford v Tring Athletic 56 Baldock Town v Berkhamsted 57 Welwyn Garden City v Bedford & Feltham 58 Takeley v

Sporting Bengal United 59 Clapton v Barking 60 St Margaretsbury v Colney Heath 61 Cockfosters v Wembley 62 Dorking v Knaphill 63 Farnham Town v East Preston 64 Littlehampton Tn v Corinthian 65 Beckenham Town v Westfield 66 Cray Valley (PM) v AFC Croydon Athletic 67 Ashford United v Greenwich Borough 68 Whyteleafe v Windsor 69 Crowborough Athletic v Epsom Athletic 70 Staines Lammas v South Park 71 Chessington & Hook Utd or Dorking Wanderers v Hassocks 72 Newhaven v Cove 73 Eastbourne United v Phoenix Sports 74 Erith Tn v Lingfield 75 East Grinstead Tn v Sevenoaks Tn 76 Winchester City v Sholing 77 Hamworthy United v Oxford City Nomads 78 Kidlington v Lynton Town 79 Highmoor Ibis v Folland Sports 80 Wyke & Dibden 87 Reading Town v Milton United 88 Binfield v Warminster Town 89 Bishop Sutton v Odd Down 90 Almondsbury UWE v Newquay or Barnstaple Town 91 Cadbury Heath v Hallen 92 Brimscombe & Thrupp v Ashton & Backwell United 93 Brislington v Longwell Green Sports 94 Bovey Tracey v Shepton Mallet 95 Salsburgh United v Willand Rovers 96 Plymouth Parkway v Gillingham Town 97 Tavistock v Winterbourne United 98 Exmouth Tn v Bristol Manor Farm.

Non-league Football

Non-league News

Boro back to basics
A CHANGE of tactics helped Gosport Borough break new ground with their first ever Conference South victory last Saturday.

Goals by ex-Eastleigh midfielder/striker Jamie Brown and former Folland Sports winger Rory Williams earned them a 2-0 win over Tonbridge Angels at Privett Park.

"We played 4-4-2 and went back to basics," manager Alex Pike explained.

"And I brought (ex-AFC Totton goalkeeper) Gareth Barfoot in for his debut and put Andy Forbes into the back four."

Borough opened the scoring in the 53rd minute when another former AFC Totton man, left winger Mike Gosney, whipped in a cross for Brown to powerfully head home.

Justin Bennett was inches away from adding a second when his neat lob looped narrowly over.

But, with ten minutes to go, Gosport finally made the game safe when Williams latched onto ex-Saint Tom Dunford's through ball and fired into the far corner.

Tonbridge had arrived at Privett Park unbeaten in four games, but Borough's tactical overhaul won the day.

"We decided to freshen things up and made a few changes and thoroughly deserved to get a win under our belts," smiled assistant boss Mick Catlin.

One Ell of a winner
ELLIOTT Wykes grabbed the decisive goal as Laverstock & Ford came successfully through their FA Vase test at Western Premier Division outfit Hengrove Athletic last Saturday.

Wykes, back with the Wiltshire club following a spell with Lymington Town, controlled a long kick from goalkeeper Steve Butler and volleyed into the top corner from 20 yards.

Lavvy are now set to rekindle their old rivalry with Verwood Town when they visit Potterne Park in the first round proper on October 19.

Reflecting on the Hengrove win, Lavvy's co-manager Rob Lakeman said: "It was a bit of a smash and grab, but we have played some good stuff recently and it was a good win."

Killick sees red over Oliver sending off

POOLE Town boss Tom Killick blasted Burnham defender Ashley Smith for his part in Ian Oliver's dismissal in last Saturday's 0-0 Calor Southern Premier stalemate.

Former Eastleigh defender Oliver got his 69th-minute marching orders for an alleged head butt on Smith after the rivals had squared up following a crunching tackle.

Smith snatched his body back and clutched his face before Weymouth referee Robert Dabbs, who issued six yellow and two red cards during the afternoon, consulted his assistant and sent a perplexed Oliver from the pitch.

Tatnam officials were set to submit video evidence this week in an attempt to clear Oliver's name and, although Killick branded his player "naïve" for getting embroiled in the incident, he felt Smith had made a meal of it.

"It looked like one of those juvenile situations where they rest foreheads but invariably when someone falls over the other player gets a red card," said the Poole boss.

"I thought the linesman was a bit naïve in his interpretation of the situation because I felt their player fell over when he didn't need to. He (Smith) instigated the head-to-head and then hit the floor."

"They (Burnham) were probably pleased because he made the most of the situation, but Oli was naïve to get involved because he needlessly put himself at risk."

It was the Dolphins' fourth red card in ten competitive matches this season and suspensions are starting to take their toll on the Dorset promotion hopefuls.

"We were without Carl Pettefer through injury and, with two players (Steve Devlin and Dan Cann) suspended, the consequences have started coming home to roost," said Killick.

"I haven't been too harsh on the individuals because they were all one-off situations, but we've had a chat with the players because it has affected us."

Burnham boss Martin Stone, who had Ryan Upward dismissed with six minutes to go for swinging a flailing arm at Poole's Carl Preston, said of Killick's comments about Smith: "Tom Killick is entitled to his opinion, but I thought we were probably the better team and deserved to win."

"We felt their guy went down easily for our red card and I dare say they would see that differently. That's football."

MARCHING ORDERS: Poole Town's Ian Oliver, top.



ALL I WANT IS CONSISTENCY FROM OFFICIALS - BURNETT

BLACKFIELD & Langley boss Glenn Burnett wasn't surprised to read the "Referees under fire" story in last week's Pink.

In it, no fewer than four Sydenhams Premier Division managers/coaches expressed their discontent with some controversial and, in their view, incorrect officiating that had cost their clubs valuable points.

Burnett was another left frustrated by the officials in the 2-2 draw at Winchester City last Saturday, having been dismissed from the dugout shortly after Blackfield's Joe Byrne had walked for a second yellow.

But he knew he was not alone when he saw what other managers were saying in *The Pink*.

"There have been some crazy refereeing decisions made this season that have left me scratching my head," admitted the Watersiders boss.

"And reading *The Pink* last week, you can see it's not just me who thinks it, it's right across the board."

"I know you get fined and stuff for complaining, but what if officials

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are not adhering to the laws?

"If I send my team out and they do the wrong things, I'm held responsible for it – and officials need to be too."

"Against Winchester I saw a two-footed tackle on one of my lads and, while I'm not saying I

wanted the Winchester player sent off, what I didn't want to see was Joe Byrne given a second yellow for a nothing tackle about a minute later."

"There's a big responsibility out there for referees and linesmen as well."

"Linesmen are called assistant referees and that's what they're there to do, assist. But some of them are two metres away from an incident and have no say whatsoever."

"All managers are asking for is a bit of consistency."

Fawley AFC chairman Kevin Mitchell believes the number of red cards being dished out this season is "getting out of hand."

He said: "We've got players getting paid no money for playing and they're picking up £50 fines for innocuous tackles."

"We had Mark Parnell sent off for his first foul in the FA Vase against Amesbury and now he's got a three-match ban – and this is a lad who plays football for fun."

"I wish some of the referees would stop and think before flashing cards around."

"I'm getting paranoid that the Hampshire FA needs the money and is telling refs to give as many cards as they can!"

"It seems the first foul committed

is a yellow card, which sets a precedent, and then the cards continue to come out."

"A lot of players in the Wessex League play for enjoyment, but when they're picking up fines for something and nothing is it any wonder some of them think 'I'm not really enamoured with the game any more'?"

"I'm sympathetic because referees can have a bad game the same as players can, but it doesn't cost them, does it? They still pick up their money."

"We've had refs apologise after a game because they've made a mistake, but that doesn't stop them sending the red card in. They don't rescind it, do they?"

"Even if everyone – including the assessor – tells the ref he's got it wrong, the red card still gets sent in." One manager who was happy with the officials this week was Totton & co-boss Stuart Hussey.

He felt Southampton referee Karl Sear and his assistants got their handling of Tuesday's basement battle at Romsey Town spot on.

Hussey, whose side triumphed 2-0, said: "The officials were the best we've had. They were very strong and they weren't influenced at all by the crowd."

CALL NON-LEAGUE WRITER WENDY GEE ON 023 8042 4483

Non-league Football

Renyard goes AWOL to score Hythe winner

Wendy Gee

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NON-LEAGUE REPORTER

NATHAN Renyard went AWOL from his midfield holding role at Totton & Eling last Saturday – much to his manager's delight.

With 120 minutes gone and the score locked at 2-2 at Millers Park, Hythe & Dibden's oldest player somehow mustered up the energy to escape the engine room and fire home a dramatic, late FA Vase winner.

"Terry Cox was suspended, Steve Green was at a stag do and Alex Liburd was in London, so we had a big change-around in central midfield," explained Hythe boss Lee Burch after his side's 3-2 extra-time win.

"Matt Spencer, who's at university in Plymouth, travelled back on Friday especially to play and Nathan, who's normally a right-back, went into midfield.

"I've no idea what Nathan was doing in the 18-yard box when he smashed the winner into the top corner, but I thought he was the best player on the park. For him to pop up and score a goal like that was just reward for his efforts.

"Totton & Eling have got (52-year-old ex-Saint) Dave Puckett, who's their old head, and Nathan's our older head at about 37. His fitness levels are tremendous.

"He played 120 minutes in central midfield and told me he was doing a 10K run on Sunday!

"With someone like Nathan, age doesn't relate to fitness.

"There was probably no one else who could have popped up and done what he did in the 120th minute."

Hythe suddenly look a different side to the one that's languished at the bottom of Sydenhams One for the past two seasons.

"Everyone's pulling together," said Burch "and I'm getting plenty of support from Dave Cox, the chairman, and my assistant Scott Johnson who I speak to loads every day.

"Making sure everything in the background's correct is hopefully having an effect on the pitch."

It's not only the first team who are enjoying the Hythe revival. The Watersiders' reserves, managed by Aaron Fry, are doing very nicely too.

"The reserves have played four and won four in the Wyvern Combination whereas in the past they've struggled to get any wins at all," said Burch.

Arnold: Players must shoulder blame for Town troubles

SKIPPER Scott Arnold insists Wimborne Town's players must shoulder responsibility for the club's stuttering start to the Calor Southern One South & West campaign.

The ambitious Cuthbury outfit wanted to lay strong foundations for an assault on the top five after significantly strengthening their squad over the summer.

But two wins from their opening nine matches has left Steve Cuss's men labouring in mid-table, while the prospect of any FA Cup prize money went up in smoke following a shock 3-1 home defeat by Wessex neighbours Hamworthy United.

"We've certainly failed to hit our targets so far and, while we haven't had the rub of the green, we really need to get our season going," said Arnold.

"It has been tough and a few of the games could have gone either way, but it's just not happening for us in front of goal.

"The buck stops with us as players. "The manager brought us in and, so far, we have let him down.

"The only way out of this is to work hard and just play our way through it and I am still confident we'll be there or thereabouts this season."

Wimborne found their shooting boots last Saturday with Jamie Davidson, Mark Gamble and James Stokoe all on target.

But still they only managed a one-point return in a 3-3 home draw with Stratford.

Manager Cuss reflected: "We brought in some new players over the summer and some haven't quite clicked yet, but we have seen plenty of positive signs and we're not a million miles away.

"We haven't won enough games so far, but I have been more than happy with the squad and we don't feel any kind of pressure at all."

Wimborne ended their seven-match winless run on Tuesday, beating AFC



NO HOLDING BACK: Wimborne Town skipper Scott Arnold, left.

Totton 3-1 in the Red Insure Cup preliminary round.

Davidson and Matt Kemble put the Magpies 2-0 up at the Testwood Stadium and Gamble finished the job in added time after Luke Roberts had pulled one back for the Stags.

A first round trip to Dorset rivals Poole Town now beckons on

Tuesday, October 15 and Cuss said:

"One of the down sides to being in the South & West this season is the lack of local games and this is an opportunity to generate some interest by playing one of our neighbours.

"Matches with Poole are always well contested, so we were pleased to get through the Totton tie."

"I want to be sat in the clubhouse on a Saturday night after a good first-team result and then have the reserves come in saying they've won too."

While the Vase win – courtesy of goals from Sean Stone, new signing Mark Lilley and Renyard – was a welcome one, Burch's main priority is climbing into the top half of the league.

"The table's already beginning to split in two and we don't want to be left behind," he said.

"We played several of the top

teams while the side was still learning, so hopefully that's a blessing in disguise.

"We've got to make sure we produce performances like last Saturday's in the league and don't just turn up for Vase games."

Hythe hope to conjure up more FA Vase magic away to last season's Sydenhams Premier runners-up Alresford Town on October 19.

They have, however, made an early exit from the Southampton Senior Cup, beaten 3-1 by Cadnam on Tuesday.

Non-league News

Eastleigh bow out

EASTLEIGH bowed out of the FA Youth Cup at the Silverlake Stadium on Monday, beaten 3-2 by Dorset Youth League side Wimborne Town.

It was a disappointing exit for the young Spitfires as they had taken a first-minute lead through Jack Waters and threatened to overwhelm a smaller visiting outfit, writes **KERRY MILLER**.

Wimborne keeper Luke Horton kept his side in the game with a string of saves before, against the run of play, Landon Arthur levelled just before the break.

Eastleigh's Aidan Collins nodded home from on the goalline from a Jack Smith header to make it 2-1, but Wimborne gained in confidence and a Joe Manley free-kick went in off a defender ten minutes later.

Full-back Rob Howard won the game for the Magpies with 13 minutes left after Eastleigh had failed to clear a corner.

With Eastleigh's first team sitting top of the Skril Conference South, it was quite a coup for the Dorset visitors.

"This is a magnificent night for Wimborne Town FC," beamed Magpies boss Steve Cuss who, along with Ed Taylor, is managing the FA Youth Cup squad.

Learn with Spitfires

EASTLEIGH FC'S new academy programme has kicked off with 16 scholars on site five days a week.

Aimed at 16 to 18-year-olds, the academy has been running for six years with the aim of helping talented footballers progress their sporting careers while continuing their academic studies.

For the first time the Spitfires are now educating the young players on site, allowing them more contact time with the coaching staff.

The scheme enables them to enjoy six hours of coaching by UEFA-qualified coaches and to play competitive fixtures – in the Conference Youth Alliance, the Hampshire Youth League and the Wyvern Premier League – alongside their academic studies.

Over the two-year duration, players will study for a variety of nationally recognised qualifications in sport, coaching and fitness.

To learn more about scholarships contact Dan Wright at socceracademy@eastleighfc.com.

MORE NON-LEAGUE COVERAGE IN MONDAY'S DAILY ECHO

Non-league Football

Non-league News

Heading right Way

DAN Way is confident Dorchester Town's 2-0 win over Chelmsford City last Saturday can act as the catalyst for a turnaround in the Magpies' fortunes in the Skrill Conference South. While the clash with the Essex outfit was notable for Mark Jermyn's record-breaking 586th appearance, it also saw 18-year-old Way net his maiden senior goal after just 14 minutes at the Avenue Stadium.

With Gosport Borough also winning, the result wasn't enough to lift the Magpies off the foot of the table, but Way said: "We needed that win and I was just glad to help us get off to a good start."

"Everyone was buzzing in the changing room after the game. Chelmsford are a good side and everyone realised that the result could be a turning point for us."

Town sign Reading ace

SKRILL Conference South club Basingstoke Town have signed Matt Partridge on a month's loan from Reading. The Royals' academy product and former under-18s captain is comfortable as both a defender and midfielder. Having signed his first pro deal in the summer of 2012, Partridge was a regular for the under-21s throughout the 2012/13 campaign. He has previously spent time out on loan with Ryman League Premier Division side Bognor Regis Town.

Salisbury City stretch unbeaten run to eight matches

AFTER a dismal start to the Skrill Conference Premier season, Salisbury City this week hit the heady heights of fourth spot.

The Whites were on a downhill slope when they lost three on the bounce on their return to non-League's top flight, but they have emphatically transformed their fortunes.

Tuesday's 2-0 home win over rock-bottom Hyde stretched their unbeaten run to eight games with two goals in the last ten minutes doing the damage.

With 80 minutes gone Dan Fitchett was tripped in the area and Ben Wright, on as a second-half sub, calmly despatched the penalty.

Hyde, yet to win a league game, pressed for an equaliser but were caught on the break when Elliott Frear's looping cross was poked home by Chris McPhee, who had twice hit the woodwork in the first half.

"We do our research on teams and we knew Hyde are a very good side and I believe their position is a false one," said manager Mikey Harris.

"But I knew they were vulnerable in the last ten minutes of games."

"It's very pleasing to see the lads applying themselves to the game plan and getting their just rewards."

"It's a case of just being patient sometimes, but I was more than confident the goal was going to come."

City also grabbed two late goals last Saturday as they came back from behind to steal all three points at Nuneaton – the Midlands' first defeat of the season.

Fourteen minutes after top scorer Louis Mould had drawn first blood in the 73rd minute, Salisbury were awarded a penalty for Gavin Cowan's shove on Fitchett which Wright converted.

Nuneaton had been perched at the top of the table after winning five games on the bounce, but they were caught at the death when Fitchett squared across the face of goal and

HARRIS'S MEN PUT DISMAL START BEHIND THEM

ON A ROLL: City boss Mikey Harris.



HEAD FIRST: Goalscorer Chris McPhee in action against Hyde.

"And what about Elliott's goal! It was fantastic."

"I'm over the moon with the way we fought back from 1-0 down at the in-form team of the league. Away wins are gold dust."

Meanwhile, Salisbury's defensive coach Chris Giles has left the Wiltshire club to pursue other plans abroad.

"I pulled the lads together on Saturday at Nuneaton and we gave Chris a good send-off," said Harris, who succeeded Darrell Clarke at the City helm during the summer.

"When I took the job on, I was on my own which was a lonely place first up."

"Choosing Chris as assistant manager was a difficult decision as I knew Chris wasn't going to be there permanently, but helping me out until Warren Feeney came along was fantastic."

"Between us three, and (goalkeeping coach) James Bittner, we have a strong coaching team and Chris will be missed."

"I don't anticipate we will bring anyone in to replace him."

Frear took a touch before thumping an explosive shot into the roof of the net.

"What a fantastic level of resilience from the lads," beamed

Harris following the 2-1 win.

"Ben Wright did very well in putting his strike away – he is a talented set-piece merchant to say the least."

LOCAL AND NATIONAL FOOTBALL FIXTURES FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

Monday, September 30
BARCLAYS PREMIER LEAGUE
Everton v Newcastle.
SOUTHAMPTON SENIOR CUP
First round: Winchester City Res v Comrades.

Tuesday, October 1
UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE
Group E: Basle v Schalke 04, Steaua Bucuresti v Chelsea.
Group F: Arsenal v Napoli, Borussia Dortmund v Marseille.
Group G: FC Porto v Atletico Madrid, Zenit St Petersburg v FK Austria.
Group H: Ajax v AC Milan, Celtic v Barcelona.
SKY BET FOOTBALL LEAGUE
Championship: Barnsley v Reading, Birmingham v Millwall, Blackburn v Watford, Blackpool v Bolton, Brighton v Sheffield Wed, Charlton v Nottm Forest, Derby v Ipswich, Doncaster v Burnley, Leeds v Bournemouth, Middlesbrough v Huddersfield, Yeovil v Leicester.
CALOR SOUTHERN LEAGUE
Division One South & West: Cinderford v Cirencester, Tiverton v Mangotsfield.
SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE
Premier Division: Bournemouth Poppies v Fawley AFC, Downton v Winchester City, Folland Sports v AFC Portchester, Newport IoW v Horndean, Sholing v Moneysfield.

SWL Cup, third round: Alesford v Hythe & Diddon, Blackfield & Langley v Christchurch; second round: Lymington Tn v Brockenhurst.
HAMPSHIRE FA SENIOR CUP
Second round: Eastleigh v Whitchurch Utd,

Fleet Town v Aldershot Town.
PORTSMOUTH SENIOR CUP
First round: Fareham Town v Waterlooille Social Club.
WYVERN COMBINATION LEAGUE
Wyvern Challenge Cup, first round: Dorchester Town v Locks Heath.

Wednesday, October 2
UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE
Group A: Bayer Leverkusen v Real Sociedad, Shakhtar Donetsk v Man Utd.
Group B: Juventus v Galatasaray, Real Madrid v FC Copenhagen.
Group C: Anderlecht v Olympiacos, PSG v Benfica.
Group D: CSKA Moscow v Pizzen, Man City v Bayern Munich.
WYVERN COMBINATION LEAGUE
Wyvern Challenge Cup, first round: Ringwood Town v Downton.

Thursday, October 3
UEFA EUROPA LEAGUE
Group A: Kuban Krasnodar v Valencia, Swansea v St Gallen.
Group B: Chornomorets v PSV, Ludogorets v Dinamo Zagreb.
Group C: Esbjerg v SV Red Bull Salzburg, IF Elfsborg v Standard Liege.
Group D: Rubin Kazan v Zulte-Waregem, Wigan v Maribor.
Group E: Dnipro v Fiorentina, Pacos Ferreira v Pandurii Targu.
Group F: Apol Nicosia v Eintracht Frankfurt, Bordeaux v Maccabi Tel-Aviv.

Group G: Genk v FC Thun, Rapid Vienna v Dynamo Kiev.
First round: Liberec v Estoril, Sevilla v SC Freiburg.
Group F: Lyon v Guimaraes, Rijeka v Real Betis.
Group J: Legia Warsaw v Apollon Limassol, Trabzonspor v Lazio.
Group K: Anzhi Makhachkala v Spurs, Tromso v FC Sheriff.
Group L: AZ v PAOK Salonika, Shakhtyor Karagandy v Maccabi Ha.

Friday, October 4
SKY BET FOOTBALL LEAGUE
League 1: Sheffield Utd v Crawley Town.
League 2: Accrington Stanley v Dag & Red.
SKY SPORTS VICTORY SHIELD
England U16 v Wales U16 (Aigborough Stadium).
SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE
Premier Division: Winchester City v Sholing.

Saturday, October 5
(All FL games 3pm ko unless stated otherwise)
BARCLAYS PREMIER LEAGUE
Cardiff v Newcastle, Fulham v Stoke, Hull v Aston Villa, Liverpool v Crystal Palace, Man City v Everton (12.45), Sunderland v Man Utd (5.30pm).
SKY BET FOOTBALL LEAGUE
Championship: Birmingham v Bolton (12.15pm), Bournemouth v Millwall, Brighton v Nottm Forest (5.30pm), Burnley v Reading, Charlton v Blackpool, Derby v Leeds, Doncaster v Leicester, Huddersfield v Watford,

Middlesbrough v Yeovil, QPR v Barnsley, Sheff Wed v Ipswich.

League 1: Brentford v Rotherham, Colchester v Wolverhampton, Gillingham v Milton Keynes Dons, Notts County v Crewe, Oldham v Leyton Orient, Peterborough v Preston, Port Vale v Bristol City, Shrewsbury v Carlisle, Stevenage v Coventry, Swindon v Tranmere, Walsall v Bradford.
League 2: AFC Wimbledon v Northampton, Newport Rovers v Fleetwood Town, Bury v Nistelro County, Exeter v Plymouth (1pm), Mansfield v Hartlepool, Morecambe v Chesterfield, Oxford Utd v Southend, Portsmouth v Rochdale, Scunthorpe v Cheltenham, Torquay v York, Wycombe v Burton Albion.

BARCLAYS U18 PREMIER LEAGUE
Chelsea U18 v Southampton U18 (11am).
SKRILL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE
Premier: Aldershot v Grimsby, Alfreton Town v Forest Green, Cambridge Utd v Hereford, Chester FC v Kidderminster, Gateshead v Dartford, Hyde v Braintree Town, Luton v FC Halifax, Nuneaton v Lincoln City, Salisbury v Wrexham, Southport v Woking, Tamworth v Macclesfield, Welling v Barnet.

South: Basingstoke v Hayes & Yeading, Bishops Cleeve v Gosport Borough, Boreham Wood v Bromley, Chelmsford v Bath City, Dover v Dorchester, Eastleigh v Concord Rangers, Farnborough v Whitehawk, Maidenhead v Havant & Waterlooville, Sutton v Eastbourne Borough, Tonbridge Angels v Staines, Weston-super-Mare v Ebbsfleet.
CALOR SOUTHERN LEAGUE

Premier Division: AFC Totton v Banbury, Bashley v Arlesey, Bedford v Cambridge City, Bideford v Corby, Biggleswade v Weymouth, Burnham v Chippenham, Chesham v Hinckley, Hemel Hempstead v Redditch, Hitchin v Frome, Hungerford v St Neots, Stourbridge v Poole, Truro v St Albans.

FA TROPHY
Preliminary round: Fleet Town v Clevedon, Wimborne Town v Marlow.
SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE
Premier Division: Alesford v AFC Portchester, Bournemouth Poppies v Christchurch, Fareham v Downton, Folland Sports v Totton & Eling, Hamworthy Utd v Blackfield & Langley, Horndean v Fawley AFC, Newport IoW v Bemerton HH, Romsey v Lymington Town, Verwood v Moneysfield, Whitchurch v Brockenhurst.

Division One: Amesbury v Laverstock & Ford, Andover NS v Petersfield, East Cowes Vics v Andover Town, Hythe & Diddon v New Milton, Pewsey Vale v Ringwood, Stockbridge v Hayling Utd, Team Solent v Tadley Calvea, US Portsmouth v Fleet Spurs.

PUMA ENGINEERING HAMPSHIRE LEAGUE
Premier Division: Headley Utd v AFC Aldermaston, Paulsgrove v QK Southampton.
Combination: AFC Stoneham v Paulsgrove, Bishops Waltham v Overton, Clarendon v Otterbourne, Fleetlands v Hedge End Rangers, Winchester Castle v Michelmarsh & Timsbury.
WYVERN COMBINATION LEAGUE
Wyvern Challenge Cup, first round: Bemerton HH v Verwood, Hayling Utd v Newport IoW, Laverstock & F v Wimborne Tn.

Division One East: Colden Common v Alton Town, Locks Heath v Alesford.
Division One West: Downton v Hythe & Diddon.

HAMPSHIRE INTERMEDIATE CUP
First round: AFC Hereford v AFC Portchester Res, Andover Lions v Liphook Utd Res, Baffins Milton Rovers v Four Marks, Barton Linnets TD v East Cowes Vics Res, Bishopstoke WMC v AFC Totton Res, Bournemouth Manor v Infinity, Bournemouth Sports v Durlay, Broughton v Colden Common, BTC (Southampton) v Fleetlands, Cowes Sports Res v Bishops Waltham, Fawley AFC Res v Hamble Club Res, Hamble Club v Netley Central Sports, Hedge End Rangers v Bush Hill, Horndean Res v Durlay Res, Liss Athletic v Clarendon, Locks Heath v Waterlooville SC, Lyndhurst v Folland Sports Res, Michelmarsh & Timsbury v Old Ockmeadians, Moneysfield Res v Horndean Hawks, Mploy v Upham, New Milton Res v Wymering, Petersfield Town Res v Bistenne Utd, Overton v AFC Stoneham, Overton Utd v Frimley Select, Portcrastran v Lymington Town Res, Romsey Town Res v Harefield, Southampton University v Liphook Utd, Sholing Res v Comrades, Tadley Calvea Res v Liss Athletic Res, Team Solent Res v Walkford, US Portsmouth Res v Christchurch Res, Yateley Utd v Winchester Castle.

Sunday, October 6
BARCLAYS PREMIER LEAGUE
Norwich v Chelsea (1.30pm), SAINTS v Swansea (1.30pm), Tottenham v West Ham (4pm), West Brom v Arsenal (4pm).

TURN BACK TO PAGE 11 FOR TODAY'S NON-LEAGUE ACTION

Non-league Football

Kearn calls for cap on 'inflated' player wages

BASHLEY co-boss Stewart Kearn has called for a cap on "inflated" player wages.

With last Saturday's opponents Hinckley United reportedly beset by six-figure debts and Bash suffering financial worries of their own over the summer, Kearn believes the powers that be should do more to control what players are paid, **writes ANDY MITCHELL.**

Kearn, pictured right, said: "We have had to endure our own financial worries and I sympathise with the supporters at Hinckley who will be suffering most. "Sadly, it's a common trend in the modern game.

"You see a lot of clubs striving for success and it can quickly go wrong when the revenue doesn't cover the costs.

"Until leagues decide to put a cap on money paid to players then clubs at this level will always run into difficulty because someone will always go chasing the dream.

"There should be a system where

players who want to earn the better money go and play in a higher league.

"Some of the players we spoke to over the summer were asking for very inflated wages and it is the same at every level of the game," added the former Wimborne and Christchurch goalkeeper.

"When you look at the budget clubs like us and Hinckley can put together compared to the likes of Poole and Weymouth you can see there is a vast spectrum.

"The likes of Gareth Bale and Ronaldo may seem a million miles away from where we are, but the increased demands filter through the levels.

"You have to ask yourself whether a football player is really worth £300,000 per week when you have more qualified and educated people who won't earn that in a year.

"Whether such a system is manageable is open to debate, but I can't see a salary cap happening because it can never be policed and there will always

be back-hand deals here and there."

Despite their off-field issues, Hinckley emerged 2-0 winners at De Montfort Park last Saturday, leaving rock-bottom Bash as the only win-less side in the Calor Southern Premier Division.

The Foresters' squad included two new signings - Elliot Ward from Dorchester Town and ex-Cherries youngster Lewis Blackmore - but still they came away from Leicestershire empty-handed.

Slating the performance as "woeful", Kearn warned: "We have reached the stage where players who aren't prepared to put in 100 per cent won't be at the club much longer.

"Every game is like a cup final now and if people aren't up for the fight they can go and play their football elsewhere."

Three players have left Bash in recent weeks - Taffy Richardson, Dave Allen and, most recently, ex-Salisbury and AFC Totton wideman Charlie Knight, who has joined Ryman Premier outfit Kingstonian.



Non-league News

Andover in mourning
ANDOVER New Street's popular club steward John Coleman has died.

Club chairman Martin Tobin described John as: "Someone we will never replace. Not only was he a great workmate but he was a genuinely nice guy who was always willing to help and would go the extra mile.

"He was responsible for the catering, the pitch and the maintenance at New Street and is a massive loss."

John died suddenly after being taken to Basingstoke Hospital and leaves sons Jamie and Sam, and daughter Beth, who gave birth to John's grandchild hours after his death.

Both sons had played for New Street and Stockbridge and the clubs were due to meet in a North Hants Senior Cup tie the day after, which was immediately postponed as a mark of respect.

John was a qualified coach-builder who worked at Locomotors for many years before stints in the building trade and at Ducal before moving to Foxcote Park.

The funeral service is at St Mary's Church, Andover, at noon on Tuesday (October 1) before transferring to Basingstoke Crematorium.

New Street FC clubhouse will be open after the service at St Mary's and anyone who knew John will be welcome.

Hawks sign Pompey ace
SKRILL South club Havant & Waterlooville have signed Portsmouth striker Ryan Bird on loan for a month to help cover their current injury crisis.

The 6ft 4in striker joined Portsmouth in pre-season having started his career at Burnham Academy as a central defender and later converted to a striker. In his final season with Burnham he scored a staggering 45 goals in 45 matches, which attracted the attentions of both Portsmouth and Wycombe Wanderers.

Bird has made four first team appearances this season for Portsmouth in League Two. He combined his work as an electrician alongside his football career before turning professional.

Despite Bird putting in a hard-working performance against Sutton United last Saturday, it was all in vain as the Hawks crashed to a 5-0 home defeat against Paul Doswell's men.

BARKER HAILS PORTCHESTER WORK ETHIC

THERE were no hard feelings from Romsey Town boss Danny Barker after his side were dumped out of the FA Vase 4-0 at AFC Portchester last Saturday.

Two goals apiece from towering targetman Jamie Musselwhite and pacy forward Simon Woods sent Romsey through the second qualifying round exit door, **writes WENDY GEE.**

But a sporting Barker admitted afterwards: "I'm a big fan of Portchester.

"They're a very strong side and, while they've got good individual players, they also work very hard for one another.

"They defend as a team and they're very powerful at times.

"They've got good, experienced players like Joe Bye in midfield and Jamie Musselwhite up top and, over the course of the season, I should think they'll upset a few.

"I tipped them in the summer as this season's surprise package."

Disappointing as it was to leak four goals, Barker felt Romsey's relative inexperience played its part.

"It was a bad day for us. Too many players didn't perform," he said.

"But I can't be too critical of our lads. It was men against boys.

"Sometimes you've got to realise that we've got an average age of about 22 and that showed on Saturday.

"But it's in games like this that our players are going to get their education."

Portchester, who have been drawn away to Western One side Bradford Town in the first round proper on October 19, felt it was a comfortable afternoon's work.

"We did enough and won at a canter," said director of football Mick Jenkins.

"Once we got our second goal there was only going to be one winner.

"We didn't really have to get out of second gear."

Bradford Town booked their ticket to the first round proper with a 4-2 home win over Portchester's Sydenhams Premier rivals Downton.

Romsey's week showed no signs of perking up on Tuesday as they lost a crucial early-season basement battle 2-0 at home to Totton & Eling.

After Dan Fox had headed the Millers in front from Murray Holmes's cross, Romsey were reduced to ten men when Craig Vigar was shown a straight red for lashing out at Mark Lloyd, who was booked for retaliation.

The hosts then stepped things up with ten men before Jon Brock made the points safe for T&E with another header.

Despite the result, T&E co-boss Stuart Hussey had words of encouragement for Barker's men.

"Romsey made some substitutions and had a real good go in the second half," he said.

"Danny Barker's got a good squad there who are all pulling together.

"It's the strongest Romsey side I've seen for a few years."

Hussey added: "This was a big six-pointer for both clubs. It's important to beat the sides around you."

Portchester's good run continued with a 3-2 league win at Christchurch on Wednesday.

Nathan Kirby, Danny Thompson and substitute Lewis Stockford put the Portsmouth visitors in the driving seat before Priory's Marc Fairbrother and Mark Smith set up a nail-biting finale.



DOUBLE: Jamie Musselwhite, left.



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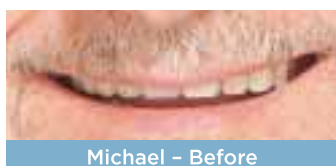
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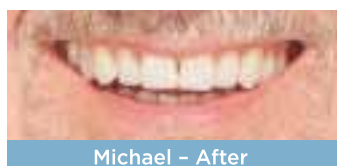
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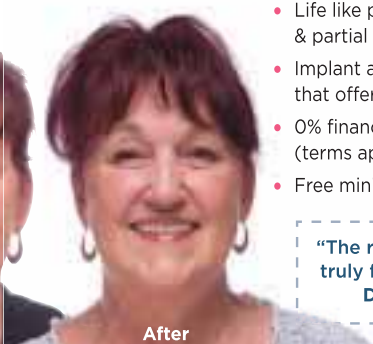
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Non-league Football



QUOTES of the week

"Wayne's performance was fantastic, I was pleased to see that. He's got his energy back, the determination, his purpose to attack players, (it was) all very encouraging to me. Being a director I'm delighted to see that, he's back to what we always remember" - **Sir Alex Ferguson sings Wayne Rooney's praises to fuel speculation the striker might want to remain at Manchester United.**

"There are things I cannot speak with you about. But he played against Everton from the beginning and you can analyse his performance" - **Jose Mourinho, below, is cryptic about the question everyone wants answering: why is Juan Mata not a first-team regular?**

"He's really champing at the bit to help the team...I have no doubt, having been out, he will be even hungrier" - **Liverpool manager Brendan Rodgers chooses his metaphors carelessly as Luis Suarez returns from his ban for biting Chelsea's Branislav Ivanovic.**



"We have fallen off the bar stool and we want to get back on it pretty quick" - **manager Terry Butcher calls on Inverness Caledonian Thistle to respond to defeat against Aberdeen.**

"It will be two days of soul-searching for the players and two days of drinking for me" - **Butcher looks for inspiration in that bar again.**

"It was a comfortable evening for us but it was, if I'm being honest, like watching paint dry" - **Hull manager Steve Bruce gives an honest assessment of his side's Capital One Cup win over Huddersfield.**

"We take no pride in having to deal with such serious issues. However this demonstrates our commitment to ensuring that snooker is free from corruption" - **World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association chairman Jason Ferguson comments on Stephen Lee's 12-year ban for match-fixing.**

"I'm absolutely devastated. I've done nothing wrong. I'm totally innocent of this" - **Lee protests his innocence.**

"I think it should have been a life ban but 12 years pretty much puts him out of his career, so he's going to have to look at something else to do. It sends out a strong message to everyone that snooker's trying to stamp out cheating. Every other player now knows they can't do it" - **world number three Judd Trump welcomes the news of Lee's punishment.**

EVEN in such a modern fast-moving world, there are not many industries to rival football for the speed with which circumstances can change.

Nevertheless, during the course of the last four years, a lot has happened to Jai Reason, *writes PAUL McNAMARA.*

The 23 year-old, the chief creative spark in Eastleigh's ever improving Skrill Conference South table-toppers under the charge of Richard Hill, arrived at the Silverlake in the summer of 2012.

In keeping with what had been a turbulent recent period in Jai's football life, Ian Baird, the manager who had brought him to the club, was removed from his post with the new season only weeks old.

Having taken the decision to step down from playing Conference Premier football with Braintree Town, it could have made for an unsettling period for one of the Spitfires' marquee signings.

"It happens in football," Reason recalled.

"You get different managers at different clubs and, at that particular point in time, the club wasn't going in the direction that the chairman wanted it to go and it's entirely up to him what he wants to do.

"All me and the other players can do is keep playing well for the club we represent. It was a bit of a change but eventually, with Richard Hill taking over, we came through it and had a good end to the season."

Despite only working under Baird for a short spell, Jai is well equipped to offer his thoughts on the different managerial styles of Eastleigh's present boss and his immediate predecessor.

"Man-management goes a long way in football," he explained.

"They (Baird and Hill) have their own individual styles regarding how they work with players.

"I think Richard Hill gets more out of the players he has than Ian Baird did from the group he worked with.

"They're both good managers, but you saw from Christmas time last season how we kicked on and got through to the play-offs.

"We had a great team-spirit, and the gaffer had everybody on their games week-in-week-out.

"We were better organised throughout matches."

It would be wildly errant to view Jai's swapping of life in the Conference Premier for the Conference South as evidence of a lack of ambition.

Indeed, nothing could be further from the truth.

When he discusses his career - while munching on a home-prepared salad for his lunch - there is an unmistakeable determination fixed in the eyes of the Spitfires Number 10.

"I wasn't happy at Braintree. I was playing left-wing. I could do a job out there, but I wasn't enjoying it," he recalled.

"I did score 13 goals in a season, but scouts were coming to watch me then saw me playing left-wing and wondered what was going on. I've always been known as an attacking or central midfielder.

"Eastleigh were the only club

SPOT ON: Jai Reason on target for Eastleigh against Chelmsford last season and, right, in the thick of it for Eastleigh.



ON TARGET: Jai Reason scores for Eastleigh in a pre season friendly against Salisbury.



to put an offer on the table.

"I snapped their hands off. I wanted to come and play in the position I always have, and show people what I can do."

Asked if, when at the turn of this year with Eastleigh having slumped into the relegation spots, he had cause to doubt the wisdom of his move, a broad smile breaks across Jai's face.

"No, not at all. You can't think like that. If you do, you'd be

JIM MAGILTON

going backwards in life rather than going forwards.

"I just knew that we all had to get our heads down.

"We had Conference quality players.

"It was just that we couldn't find the missing ingredient to get us clicking, but eventually we found it."

To trace the roots of the driven football character we watch contesting every ball - and every decision - at the heart of this tenacious and enterprising Eastleigh outfit, it

MORE NON-LEAGUE NEWS ONLINE: WWW.DAILYECHO.CO.UK

Non-league Football



A REASON TO BE CHEERFUL

is necessary to go back four years in time.

It was in May 2009 that Ipswich Town, the club to whom Jai had been attached since the age of nine, informed him that – along with six others, including Champions League winner Ivan Campo – he was being released.

"It was one of my darkest days in football. Being let go from a club that you'd been with since you were nine was so difficult. It was hard," he said.

"I left there to go to Cambridge

United, and did well. I had a few league clubs look at me then but, again, none of them put in a firm offer.

"Cambridge were good enough to give me a contract, but I lost my way a little bit.

"Going from full-time football and being at a club that played at such a high standard in the Championship, then going down to the Conference, I got dragged into a different way of life.

"I wasn't training or living right.

"It took me until I moved to

Braintree to get my head around what was happening. Since I got the move to Braintree, through to now, things have been going up and up and up.

"I've had a few rough days, but the last few years have been fantastic.

"It was Jim Magilton who released me initially. Roy Keane came in at Christmas time and I'd been doing really well at Cambridge (on loan).

"He'd seen a few boys out on loan and asked them to come back, but I

never got the call, which was a bit disappointing.

"It was a huge learning curve. It's made me a lot stronger now. I'm much more experienced. I think I've played over 150 games in the Conference and Conference South. For a 23 year-old, that's not bad."

Since Jai's departure from Portman Road, there have been plenty of brighter days. The Southend-born player's maiden campaign at Braintree, where he signed in September 2010 after his 18 months at Cambridge had ended and a subsequent stay at Crawley Town lasted little more than a month, culminated with his side being crowned Conference South champions.

It is two other experiences, though, that provide the standout moments.

"My England 'C' debut in Poland, and playing at Wembley for Cambridge in the (Conference Premier) play-off final (in 2009 against Torquay). We lost (2-0), but it was such an occasion," he said.

"Playing at Wembley is something I'd love to go and do again."

A more concrete aspiration is that his classy touch and vision can once more find a route back into the professional game.

"Of course, my main objective this season is to get Eastleigh up," he declared.

"This is a terrific club. It's run right and it's got good people behind it.

"At the minute I just want to get this club up and see what happens then."

It speaks well of his present footballing home, that a man whose dissatisfaction with his on-field berth at his last employer is content to fulfil whichever role is asked of him in order to help the Spitfires hit their promotion target.

Furthermore, Reason believes he is surrounded by individuals with the talent to help him thrive.

"I like the ball at my feet. I'm a technical player who likes to get things going.

"Whenever possible, the gaffer gets me where I can get on the ball the most.

"Playing behind Stuart Fleetwood and Craig McAllister is brilliant because they're two fantastic players.

"Playing in midfield with Ben Strevens and Glen Southam, you're going to learn every week.

"Just as long as I'm on that pitch every week and doing a job for the club and the team I'm happy with that.

"We've started great.

"Towards the end of last season with how we were playing and the momentum we had, throughout the summer I was hoping we could keep that going.

"I know it's a big break (between seasons), but from day one you can see that we've all gelled together.

"The spirit is excellent, and I just think we're going to go from strength to strength."

Momentum is with Eastleigh.

Equally, it is with their gifted playmaker whose attitude to life replicates his on-pitch demeanour.

Head up, eyes forward, and invest everything you have into pursuing your goals.

Follow Paul McNamara on twitter @mcnamara_sport

QUOTES of the week

"It is the first time I have seen something like that happen. You hope you get those decisions. I don't think anybody could believe he wasn't pulled back" - Aston Villa manager Paul Lambert is far from happy his side were not awarded a penalty when Nicklas Helenius, just as he was about to shoot, had his shorts pulled down by a stumbling Jan Vertonghen in Villa's 4-0 loss to Tottenham.



"Beer and party, lederhosen and women in their frocks - it's going to be great. I'm looking forward to experiencing these three weeks. You can trust me" - Bayern Munich coach Pep Guardiola, above, looks forward to letting his hair down at the city's Oktoberfest celebrations.

"It got harder and harder for us, but ultimately we hung on in there and won that deciding race, so the team did an incredible job" - Ben Ainslie reflects on an incredible comeback as his Oracle Team USA came from 8-1 down to win the America's Cup 9-8.

"I finished the race today, one of the most amazing races I've ever been a part of, but myself and I think a couple of other guys on the boat, our thoughts are with Andrew and his family. That race today was for him and he would have loved it" - Ainslie dedicates his America's Cup win to Andrew Simpson, his fellow British Olympian and close friend who was killed in a training accident in May.



"I will sort it. I will fix it. I will turn it round. I have no doubt about that" - David Moyes, above, vows to win round the doubters after seeing his side beat Liverpool 1-0 in the Capital One Cup.

"There's no one I feel more strongly about and I think he is doing a great job" - Arsenal owner Stan Kroenke gives his backing to Arsene Wenger.

"The idea that no one cares or is passionate about that sort of thing is just beyond the realms of imagination" - Kroenke rejects the idea that he and the club are not interested in winning trophies.

Non-league Football



Sports Quiz

- 1 What number does Demba Ba wear for Chelsea?
- 2 Which NRL club is Wigan full-back Sam Tomkins going to join next season?
- 3 Which is the only country to lose a home Test by an innings since the start of 2012?
- 4 In which country was Manu Tuilagi born?
- 5 In which country will the final round of this year's World Rally be held?
- 6 For how long was Australian Quinten Hann banned from snooker after being found guilty in 2006 of breaching match-fixing rules?
- 7 Which two NFL teams are competing at Wembley on Sunday?
- 8 What nationality is Tottenham midfielder Nacer Chadli, below?
- 9 How many Yorkshire players featured in England's Ashes Test-winning squad during the summer?
- 10 Which Premier League club were competing in Division Four, now League Two, only nine years ago?
- 11 Which two players were on the scoresheet as Arsenal defeated Chelsea 2-0 in the 2002 FA Cup final?
- 12 Which 40/1 shot won the 1995 Grand National?



- 13 Former world number one Ivan Lendl won how many tennis grand slams in his career?
- 14 Paul Belmondo and Bertrand Gachot drove for which team in the 1994 Formula One season?
- 15 Which French ski resort hosted the inaugural Winter Olympic Games in 1924?
- 16 Gareth Ellis moved to Hull from which NRL team?
- 17 Which London club did Birmingham beat in the 2011 League Cup final?
- 18 Who is the captain of Derbyshire CCC?
- 19 In what year did Tom Watson previously serve as USA Ryder Cup captain?
- 20 Sam Warburton plays his domestic rugby for which club?

Answers

1. 19; 2. New Zealand Warriors; 3. England (v South Africa at The Oval); 4. Samoa; 5. Wales; 6. Eight years; 7. The Minnesota Vikings and the Pittsburgh Steelers; 8. Belgium; 9. Three - Joe Root; 10. Jonny Bairstow and Tim Bresnan; 11. Ray ParLOUR and Freddie Swann; 12. Royal Athlete; 13. Eight; 14. Pacific; 15. Chamonix; 16. Wests Tigers; 17. Arsenal; 18. Wayne Madsen; 19. 1993; 20. Cardiff Blues.

EASTLEIGH'S TRIP IS

FORMER Saints striker and Eastleigh manager Ian Baird is the subject of a new football biography, Baird's Gonna Get Ya!

Last week the Sports Pink printed an extract from Baird's early days in the Saints first team. This week, we move his story forward to his time as Eastleigh boss.

We pick up Baird's story in the summer of 2009, after Eastleigh had qualified for the Conference South play-off semi-finals the previous season only to lose in the last four ...

AN agreement had been in place from earlier in the season that if the club qualified for the play-offs, they would be rewarded with a four-day break to Spain.

The club was true to their word and a great time was had by all.

Gareth Howells, the club's goalkeeper, remembers the trip well: "One morning, Baird was up and about at ten o'clock. Despite the fact that we had been out the previous day and had plenty of drink, he was raring to go again.

"We consumed an early lunch and were soon back on the beer. I remember Baird sticking a toothpick in Matt Gray's head, before two of us had to carry him out of the toilets in Lineker's Bar."

Another incident involving Baird was recalled by Jamie Brown: "We were sat drinking at a beach bar - there was Baird, Andy Harris, Matt Gray, Phil Pairpoint and I.

"The banter was in full swing and all of a sudden Baird asked me to punch him the stomach.

"He tensed up and I hit him, he took the punch well and asked me to hit him again. So I gave him my best, and he took that.

"When Baird asked me to punch him for a third time, Pairsy stepped in and stopped it, knowing it was a bad idea.

"In hindsight it was a good job that Pairsy intervened as, a few days later, Baird started pissing blood."

The 2009-10 season proved to be a disappointing one for all concerned with Eastleigh.

After an inconsistent 2009/10 campaign, the club finished in 11th place and like all managers, Baird had his ups and downs.

"I brought in Michael Gosney on loan from AFC Totton. The deal was for an initial one-month period, and Gosney made his debut as a



STAR: Mike Gosney.



substitute away at Thurrock but then was never seen again.

"The lad failed to turn up for training - and despite Matt Gray, Dave Malone and myself trying to contact him, he never answered any of our calls.

"Malone then received a text message from Gosney, explaining he had work commitments. But I made the decision that he wouldn't be involved with us again.

"He seemed a decent lad and he

had ability, but I wasn't going to pick a player who failed to turn up for training without a prior agreement."

It was a mixed start to the season for the club.

Following a 5-1 defeat at Newport County, Baird told his players that their heads and his own head were on the block.

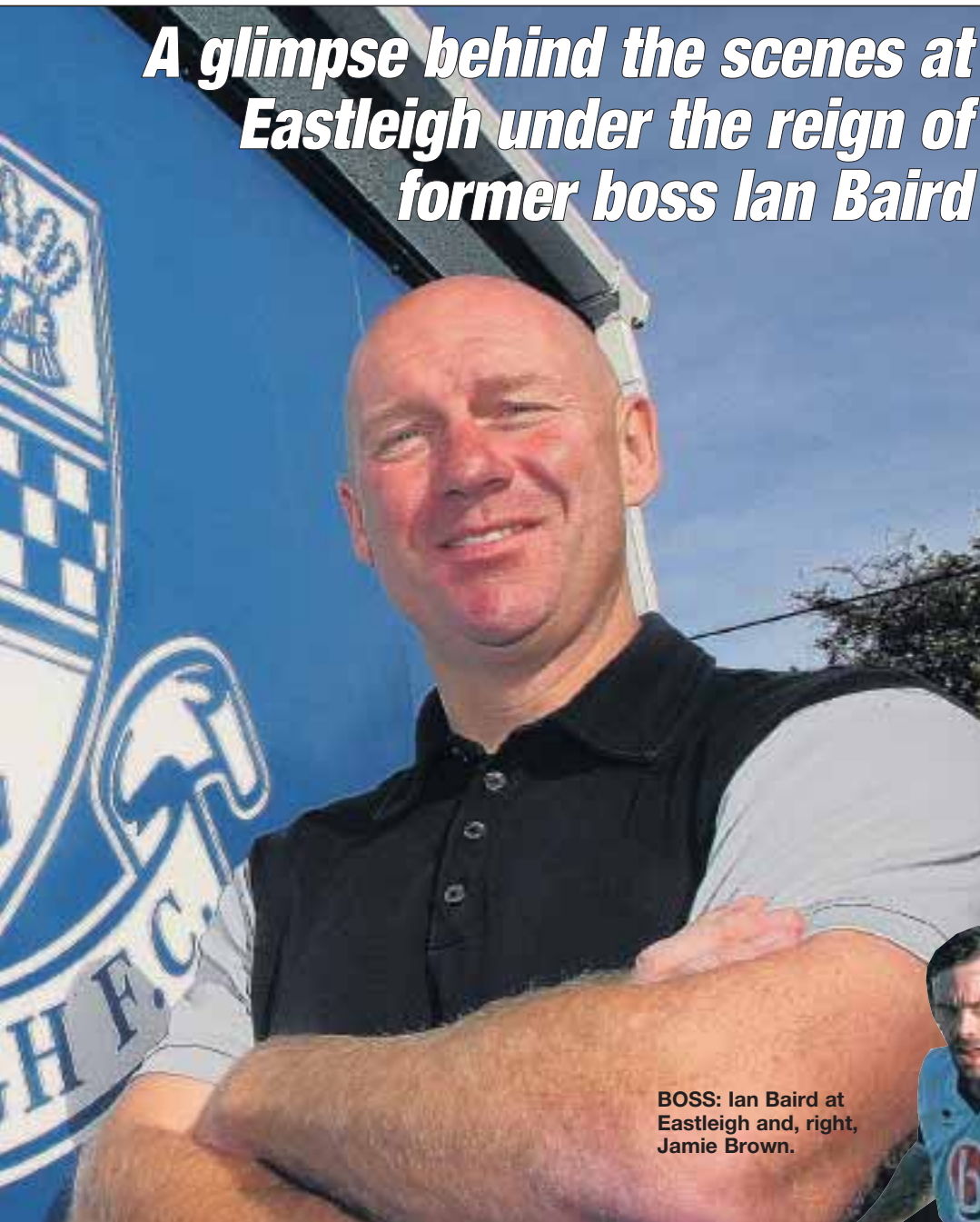
"I was a manager who was loyal to his players, and providing they did the business for me I would defend

SEE MONDAY'S ECHO FOR MORE NON-LEAGUE NEWS

Non-league Football

ONE TO REMEMBER

A glimpse behind the scenes at Eastleigh under the reign of former boss Ian Baird



BOSS: Ian Baird at Eastleigh and, right, Jamie Brown.

them and do my best for them. But after that defeat at Newport, it was impossible to defend them.

"The money was no longer available to go out and buy new players, I had to work with what I had and it was proving increasingly difficult."

On the 6th of October 2009, Eastleigh travelled to Christchurch for a Hampshire Senior Cup tie.

With several players unavailable, it was an unfamiliar side which took to the field. Andy Cook, the

physiotherapist and ex-Saints and Pompey defender, made a cameo appearance – and wearing the number nine shirt, at the age of 45 years old, was Ian Baird.

Eastleigh lost the game 2-1 after extra-time. But Ian admits he quite enjoyed the experience, despite the result:

"It was nice to get the boots on again and, although you never lose your footballing brain or your ability, it is your legs that go.

"It took me a few days to get over it, and I could have done with spraying a can of WD40 on my legs to get them going again."

Baird always kept

himself in good shape, and was keen to take part in games played during training sessions.

These games would be refereed by his assistant manager Matt Gray: "Bairdy was comical. He knew his legs had gone, but he would drift over to the left-hand side despite being all right-footed.

"When he received the ball he would cut inside, and if he got the slightest touch he would go to ground claiming a free kick but I would always wave play on.

"If the side that Bairdy was on won the game, he was unbearable. He would hang around and take the piss out of the lads on the opposition, and he'd score himself a steady 7 out of 10 for his performance.

"However, when he was on the losing side he would storm back to the changing room and not speak to anybody. When the rest of us got back in, Bairdy would be showered and changed.

"He'd always blame me for being a useless referee, he would brand me a disgrace. He hated losing."

October 2009 brought a welcome break from the pressures of management, as the club sanctioned Ian, Matt Gray, Phil Pairpoint and Andy Cook to go back to Spain for four days on a staff teambuilding exercise.

Matt Gray will always remember a couple of incidents:

"We stayed in Bairdy's apartment, which was situated at the top of a steep hill.

"At the bottom of this hill you will find an Irish bar, and one day we had spent a considerable amount of time in there.

"Several beers had been downed and we had eaten quite a large amount of food. We were chatting away and exchanging banter, when all of a sudden Bairdy started a debate with me on who had been the most successful England manager – Bobby Robson or Terry Venables.

"I knew Bairdy would plump for Bobby so I said Venables.

"It sparked a 20-minute row, and Bairdy was getting angry.

"He jumped up, smashed his glass, stormed outside, got in his car and drove back to his apartment.

"In all honesty, I knew he wasn't too concerned about the England managers.

"It was his way of getting out of paying towards the huge bar tab we had run up.

"Cooky, Pairsy and I were left to settle the

CONT ON PAGE 24

Did You Know?

ONLY 14 men with a strong football background have ever been knighted by The Queen. Here, the Sports Pink lists them in alphabetical order ...

Trevor Brooking (June 2004)

Long-serving West Ham midfielder and caretaker manager who also played over 50 times for England.

Matt Busby (June 1969)

Guided Manchester United to the 1968 European Cup, nine years after surviving the Munich air crash.

Bobby Charlton (June 1994)

Former Manchester United star who helped England win the World Cup.

John Charles Clegg (1927)

Former chairman of the Football Association.

Alex Ferguson (June 1999, below)

Knighted shortly after leading Manchester United to the treble of Premier League, FA Cup and Champions League.

Tom Finney (Jan 1998)

Legendary former Preston and England winger.

Geoff Hurst (June 1998)

Knighted 32 years after scoring a World Cup final hat-trick.

Stanley Matthews (Jan 1965)

Legendary former Stoke, Blackpool and England winger, the first footballer to be knighted.



Bert Millichip (1991)

Former chairman of the Football Association.

Alf Ramsey (Jan 1967)

Knighted the year after he guided England to the World Cup.

David Richards (June 2006)

Former Chairman of the FA Premier League and Football Foundation.

Bobby Robson (June 2002)

Much-loved former Ipswich, Newcastle and England manager.

Stanley Rous (1949)

Knighted for his contribution to the London Olympics the previous year and to sport in general. Former secretary of the FA and president of FIFA.

Walter Winterbottom (1978)

England's first post-war manager.

SEE PAGE 48 FOR ALL TODAY'S RESULTS AND THE LATEST TABLES

QK are in mourning

QK SOUTHAMPTON FC are mourning the loss of their chairman Mike Fowkes who died on Monday morning following a heart attack.

Mike, 68, will be sorely missed by the Hampshire Premier League club, where he had been a much respected and influential figure for more than five years.

Asked to describe Mike as a character, club secretary Don Campbell smiled fondly: "Stubborn! "When he realised what he wanted to do, you couldn't deflect him from it."

Mike first appeared on the QK scene as a spectator at Lordshill Rec. "He lived in Coxford and we first noticed him when he used to walk round our pitch and watch our games," said Campbell.

"Nobody really knew much about his background, but he showed us clippings of himself with Aston Villa Youth in his younger days and he travelled round the world with his business – and he was a great, great grandfather as well.

"Mike had a full life and we'd been looking forward to him having an even fuller one with us, but it wasn't to be."

Such was hard-working chairman's input at the club that QK are at a loss to know what they will do without him.

"We had a major issue when we lost the team a couple of years back and Mike brought us through that," said Campbell.

"He did the top end work, making sure we were financially sound, and the bottom end work, looking after the facilities and mowing the pitch.

"We've got to consider what we do now.

"We may have to look outside the club to replace Mike, but it's tough trying to find someone of that calibre."

Alton gain new hope

FORMER Sydenhams League club Alton Town have been given fresh hope of survival.

Molson Coors, landlords of Town's current Sports Ground home, have agreed, in principle, to finance the upgrading of the nearby council-owned Anstey Park Stadium to Combined Counties League standard.

The upgrade would include up-to-date floodlights and a 3G artificial grass pitch and would enable the current leaseholders Alton United Youth FC and Alton Town FC to come together as one larger club.

The move is now dependent on Molson Coors or their agents getting planning permission for Town's Sports Ground home.

In the meantime the club will be staying where they are.

Alton chairman Jim McKell said: "Coors have now confirmed that it is their intention to allow Alton Town FC (and the bowls club) to remain where they are until the new facilities are completed, assuming a favourable planning outcome remains achievable and supported by all parties involved."

The club have collected over 4,000 signatures from their online and offline petition and have been encouraged by messages of support stressing the heritage of the club and its valuable place in the community.

Non-league Football

SPITFIRES' FAILURE

From page 23

bill, but what pissed the three of us off the most was the fact that we had to walk back up the hill."

Another sizeable bar tab was racked up following a round of golf at the Los Arqueros Golf and Country Club.

The course was designed by Severiano Ballesteros and is set among the mountains.

"Having driven there in a four-seater van, we teed off at lunchtime. And by darkness, we had drank about 10 pints each and between us polished off a couple of bottles of wine in the club house.

"We were in a fair old state, especially Pairsy who had lost the ability to speak.

"Bairdy came out of the toilets and suggested to me, as I had the 'whip', that we did a runner without settling the bar tab.

"In a bid to get to the van, he and Cooky ran up the stairs and through the actual bar – when all they had to do was walk round the corner and the van was there.

"In his drunken state, and due to the fact it was pitch black, Bairdy ran straight past the van as about eight waiters – who probably had an idea of what was happening – came walking around the corner.

"Eventually we all piled into the van. And in a frantic attempt to get away, rather than find reverse, Bairdy put the vehicle into first gear and drove straight through a hedge.

"In the end, I was steering and Bairdy was controlling the pedals.

"In the back seats sat Cooky, who was egging Ian on to go harder on the accelerator, and poor old Pairsy who sat there licking the windows.

"We endured a 15-minute nightmare journey through the windy mountain roads and that experience soon sobered me up."

There was a very heated afternoon at the end of January 2010 when Baird renewed rivalries with his former club Havant.

"I made the headlines that day for refusing to shake hands with the opposing manager Shaun Gale, who had been my assistant during my tenure as manager of Havant.

"When questioned by the local media, I replied that Shaun wasn't my cup of tea and I refrained from saying anymore.

"In fairness, it was all done in the heat of the moment. There was an intense rivalry between the clubs and, in hindsight, I regret that particular incident."

With the games coming thick and fast, Eastleigh found themselves in 11th place towards the end of February after an 8-2 home defeat by Thurrock.

Questions were asked of Baird and he knew the pressure was on.

"I still couldn't get the play-off defeat out of my system, and I began to lose some of my enthusiasm for the job. I felt that the pressure was beginning to mount and I was far from enjoying it."

Director of Football Dave Malone defended Baird, and his faith was



REGRET: Ian Baird was never able to take Eastleigh higher.

repaid with three consecutive away wins that took the club into the play-off places.

But with home wins hard to come by and two defeats over Easter, the play-off dream vanished and Eastleigh finished the season 11th.

Baird set about making the necessary changes to improve the squad.

Brett Williams, who had been sold during the previous season,

returned to the club (he would be sold on again to Championship side Reading).

He was followed by Will Hendry, who had played a pivotal role in Hayes & Yeading's remarkable play-off victory over Eastleigh at the end of the 2008-09 season.

Hendry originally signed on a non-contract basis. But after playing a handful of games, the deal was made permanent.

It was a move that didn't work out, and Hendry was soon released after a breach of club discipline.

"There was no doubting his ability, but I felt he wasn't a team player and advised him to take up golf or tennis.

"He was substitute for a game against Dartford and I sent him on with just a few minutes remaining. It was customary for the subs to go back onto the pitch with Matt Gray to do some exercise in a bid to keep their fitness levels up.

"But he refused, telling Matt that he hadn't joined the club to sit on the bench and not play.

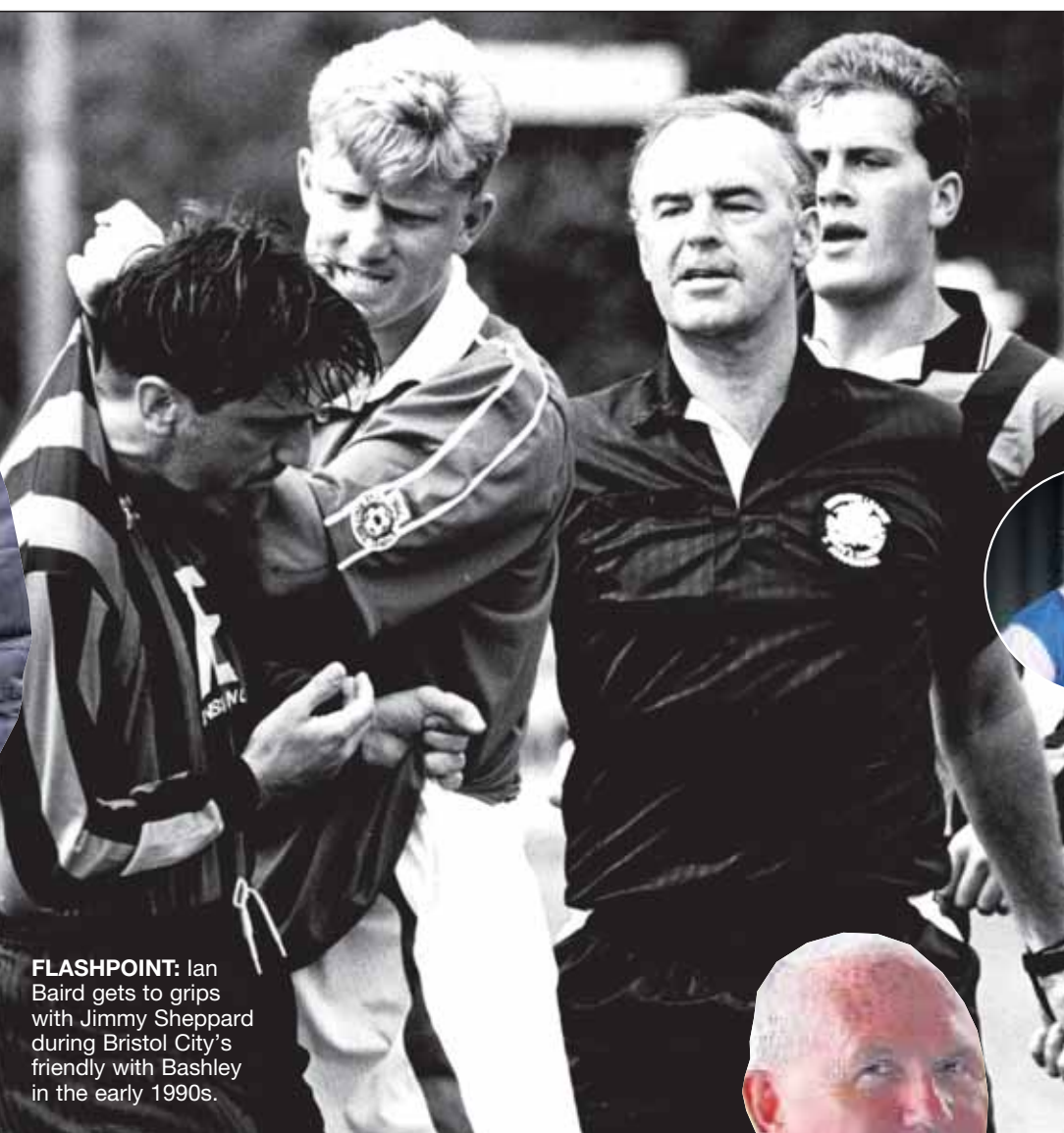
"That was the end of his time at Eastleigh. I had no room in my squad



SHAUN GALE

Non-league Football

A REGRET FOR IAN



FLASHPOINT: Ian Baird gets to grips with Jimmy Sheppard during Bristol City's friendly with Bashley in the early 1990s.



DAVID MALONE

the moment I said some unforgivable things.

"But I knew that I held the cards, as I was under contract and the team were on a half decent run and playing well."

Fast forward to March 2012 ...

A Hampshire Senior Cup run proved a welcome break from the league campaign, in which play-off hopes were fading fast.

By the end of the month, those hopes were over after a humiliating 6-1 defeat at Boreham Wood.

Fans on the internet message boards were calling for Baird to be sacked.

Despite being told by the new owners (at Bridle Insurance) that he would be judged the following season, Baird had his concerns:

"I was embarrassed by that defeat, and I told the media that I thought the players had thrown the towel in due to what was going on at the club.

"Stewart Donald wanted to bring in his mate Richard Hill as my assistant but, following a meeting with Richard, we both knew that it wasn't feasible.

WILL HENDRY "However, I knew that Richard Hill would become the new manager once Donald and the Board were presented with the first opportunity to sack me, and it was a very unsettling time."

Eastleigh finished the season in 12th place.

After a hectic pre-season on the transfer front, Baird saw his side made promotion favourites by the bookmakers.

He warned that Rome wasn't built in a day, and there was some real hard work ahead for everybody connected with the club.

Unfortunately, the club didn't get off to the best of starts and on the 11th of September 2012, Eastleigh relieved Ian Baird from his position as first team manager following a 4-0 defeat at Billericay.

Not surprisingly, he was replaced by Richard Hill – whose appointment was confirmed within 24 hours of Ian leaving the club.

"Like I said, I knew I was on a sticky wicket and I had been for sometime.

But I fully believe that the reason I got the sack was predominantly because of Richard Hill and his friendship with Stewart Donald.

"Saying that, I don't hold any grudges against the two of them because these things happen in football. I had been given a fantastic budget and we'd had a good pre-season, but after a disappointing start I was gone.

"My ambition had been to take Eastleigh higher but I never managed to do that."

New boss same story

NOT even a temporary manager could buck Bournemouth Poppies' losing trend at home to Fareham Town on Tuesday.

Boss Ken Vaughan missed the Sydenhams Premier clash after his return from holiday was delayed.

His son, injured Poppies' keeper Kenny Vaughan Jr, took charge alongside senior player Fawzi Saadi.

But little changed for the struggling Victoria Park club who nose-dived to an eighth straight league defeat.

Despite a hard-working display which saw Poppies battle back twice from behind, panicked play invited Fareham in for a last-gasp 3-2 victory.

Kane Andrews was guilty of a misplaced pass and Fareham sub Liam Bradbury curled home from 20 yards.

Despite Bournemouth's bitter disappointment, stand-in gaffer Vaughan saw signs of improvement.

"We had as much play as they had and matched their work rate, but we just lacked the quality and experience to see it out," he said.

"It was an horrendous way to lose and, while you could see it coming in the last five or ten



DELAYED: Kenny Vaughan.

minutes, it was still a massive improvement from where we were.

"We have several players to come back in and their experience will make all the difference."

Ashley Tattersall had put Fareham ahead, netting the rebound after Poppies' keeper Sean Lillington had parried Graham Lindsey's shot.

Andrews thumped home a header two minutes later, but Fareham regained the upper hand early in the second half when Lindsey's deft touch played in Gary Austin to find the far corner of Lillington's net.

It looked as if Poppies had finally banked their first league point when Ricky Lane's free kick deflected in off Rob Pittman with 15 minutes remaining.

But, having had a lucky escape when Lindsey headed against the bar, they proved masters of their own downfall in a desperate finale.

Bradbury's well-struck winner continued a decent few days for Fareham, who had brushed aside Bristol Academy 4-1 in the FA Vase on Saturday courtesy of Josh Cripps – his first senior Town goal – Ian Humble, John Wilson and Lindsey.

Fareham's reward is a first round proper trip to Abingdon United of the Hellenic Premier Division on October 19.

Who are ya?

Hedge End Town

Goalkeeper: Dave Rowe – Unbelievable keeper who showed again just how good he is last Saturday. You wouldn't want to see him coming towards you in a one-on-one situation.

Goalkeeper: Shaun Hall – Professional golfer at Botley Park and iron strength. Eagle-eyed shot stopper who's at his best when he has plenty to do. There's no tea lady, so the club just has a tee man instead ...

Full-back: Pat Williams – Two-footed with the ball and two-footed without it. Hatchet man who is currently trying to go all season without getting booked – not sure how long that will last!

Centre Back: Chris Williams – A man mountain of a defender currently missing through injury. The backbone of the defence and a player you should never be without going into battle.

Centre Back: Mike Thorn – Tenacious and a valuable asset to have... as long as he's not seeing red.

Centre Back: Jack Martin – Good to see him back after a spell out. Good header of the ball and an all round solid player.

Centre Back: Andy Gregory – The quickest man in the team, whose pace is always called upon when sweeping up behind the defence. A stalwart in defence.

Full-back: Andrew "Barney" Seaborne – A great addition last season. Consistently gets the job done, whatever is asked of him.

Full-back: Simon "Sim" King – Aka Franco Baresi. Skillful left-footed player who can provide great service. Can always be relied upon, unless he's got a music gig to play – then he's gone!

Winger: Lloyd Crow – Joint longest serving member of the team who provides chances from out wide and can show composure in front of goal when he comes inside.

Centre Midfield: Anthony Sketcher – Aka Arnold Schwarzenegger. Known for his beast mode, strong challenger who always looks comfortable in possession and very rarely loses the ball.

Centre Midfield: Blayne Kinley – Powerhouse midfielder with a work rate to match. Manager's player and player's player last season. Constantly puts opposing players under pressure and is equally as good while in possession.

Centre Midfield: Dave Helps – Mr Hedge End Town. Captain since forming the team 12 years ago. Covers every inch of the pitch as a box to box midfielder. A true legend among the Hedge ranks.

Centre Midfield: Daggogo "JR" Simon-Hart – The oldest player in the team, even if he doesn't look it... possibly due to decent anti-ageing cream! Awesome competitor in the air and likes to dribble with the ball when his legs still move him forward.

Attacking Midfield: Warren Hopkins – A wizard of a midfielder who constantly drives through the centre, ghosting past players before hammering the ball in the back of the net. Would make Dumbledore look silly.

Right Midfield: Ben Dashwood – Another welcome addition last season and one who has made the position his own, scoring 10+ goals from out wide. If he could tackle he'd be dangerous.

Winger: Tom Siley – Often delivers a knockout blow. Very punchy winger whose ball skills run rings round opponents. A heavyweight on and off the pitch ...he's a boxer off the field.

Striker: Steve Hopkins – Serious natural talent who was cruelly held back by a string of knee injuries. Instinctive finisher who found the net repeatedly last year, including a 12-min hat trick off the bench.

Striker: Steve Deacon – Top scorer last season. Terrorises defences with and without the ball. As a lone striker, his incredible work rate makes him an irreplaceable member of the team.

PARK SCRATCHINGS ... PARK SCRATCHINGS

HEDGE EDGE FIELD

IN a high octane affair, Hedge End Town scraped past Harefield 2-1 in the first round of the Southampton Senior Cup at Wide Lane.

Callum Oliver headed Drew Smith Southampton Senior 1 underdogs Harefield into an early lead.

Steve Hopkins sumptuously stroked home an equaliser for the Drew Smith League Premier Division outfit and the game looked to be heading for penalties.

But, in the dying seconds of extra time, Hedge bundled the ball in the net through Andrew Seaborne to send them into the next round.

Harefield dominated possession and would have won if it wasn't for a master-class performance by Hedge stopper Dave Rowe.

Hedge captain David Helps could have put them ahead mid-way through the first-half but his penalty thundered against the post.

Helps was philosophical about his penalty miss and admitted he was eager to step up again if he had to.

"We felt destined for penalties all the way through extra time," he recalled.

"I was pumped for it too, and as soon as I missed that first penalty I felt confident I could hit the target a second time.

"I just hit it too well."

The skipper, who had a topsy-turvy match, made the initial mistake for Ryan Glasspool to play in Oliver to put Harefield ahead early on.

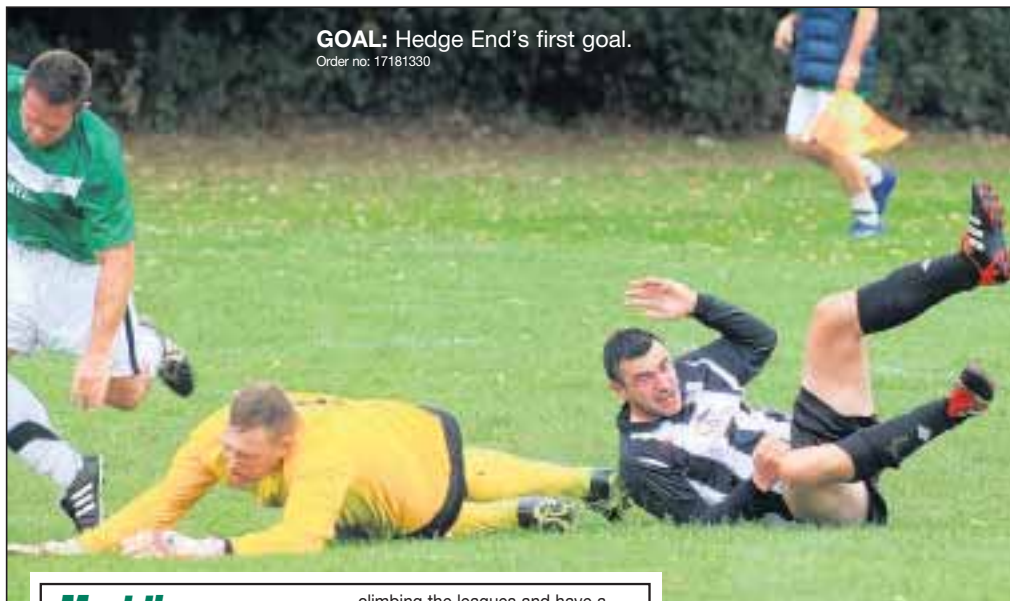
"I wanted to make up for my earlier error and when we got a penalty I put my hand up," he said.

"It thundered against the post and my heart sank.

"At that point I thought they'd win. It just wasn't my day in front of goal, and they did dominate possession at times."

GOAL: Hedge End's first goal.

Order no: 17181330



Meet the manager

WES SKINNER (HEDGE END)

Age: 29

From: Hedge End

Occupation: Logger

Who do you support: Hedge End Town/Saints

Favourite player: Matt Le Tissier

Favourite football moment:

Winning Senior 1 League title last year.

Best goal you have ever seen:

Could have been one of three goals scored by Steve Hopkins in a 12 min hat trick from the bench.

Ambitions for the club: to keep

climbing the leagues and have a good crack at getting to one of the senior cup finals at St Mary's.

Team check

Nickname: HET

League: Southampton Saturday

League Premier Division

Pub: Barleycorn/WEB

Skipper: Dave Helps

Moaner: Shaun Hall

Mr Motivator: Blayne Kinley

Worst haircut: Simon King

Club joker: Pat Williams

The Professional: Chris Williams

Worst car: Team minibus – Ford

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effort into the bottom right of the net on the stroke of half time.

Rowe, who once played for New Milton and Romsey in the Wessex League, showed his worth after the break as he thwarted several efforts from Ryan McDermott and Andrew Powell.

Harefield's attempts to plunder a second goal seemed doomed as centre back Shawn Humphreys had to be pulled off with an injury.

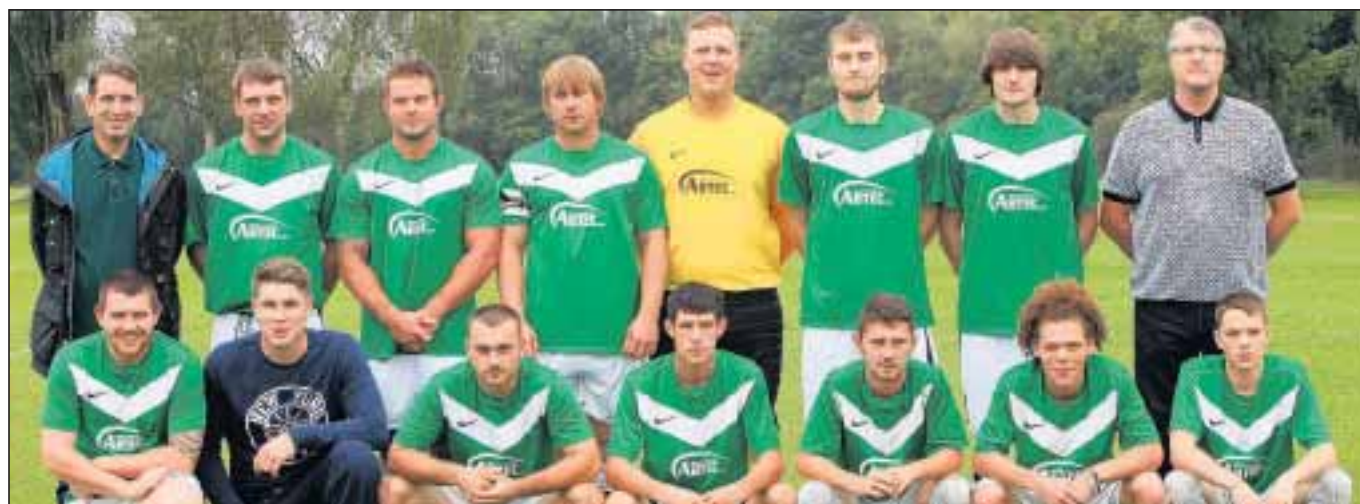
That resulted in goal-scorer Callum Oliver deputising in the back-line for the remainder of the tie.

With cramp setting in, the game seemed to be grinding its way to a tense showdown from the spot.

Harefield boss Steve Jordan felt his side could have wrapped up the

Hopkins showed his class as he twisted his way through the

Harefield defence to go one-on-one with the goalkeeper, placing an



HAREFIELD: Back (from left): Peter Sturgess, Ryan Glasspool, Liam Sennatt, Ryan McDermott, Ryan Gallentry, Breon Graham, Shawn Humphreys, Steve Jordan. Front: Jamie Roberts, M.Bevan, Tom Hawkins, Andrew Powell, Callum Oliver, Brandon Williams, Jess Stickland.

Order no: 17180286

Next week's Scratchings: Chamberlayne v Chandler's Ford

PARK SCRATCHINGS ... PARK SCRATCHINGS IN A TENSE CUP TIE



FANS: The ladies and toddlers on the touchline to watch Hedge End v Harefield. Right: Action from the game. Order: 17181192/17180674



win if it wasn't for Rowe.
"The man-of-the-match was their goalkeeper, he was outstanding, any other keeper and we would have won it. It was a great performance," he said.

"It was one of those games where we had 65 per cent possession - we were on top but they nicked it in the end.
"Sometimes, that's just football, isn't it? We were really unlucky."

With the game reduced to a mere crawl as it edged towards almost two hours of arduous play, Hedge were awarded a free kick.

In the subsequent melee

that ensued the ball bobbled and bounced along the goal-line, before it made its way to the feet on Seaborne, who scuffed a shot into the back of the net with the final kick.

Helps admitted his side weren't at their best.

"We were up against it definitely, we had many fitness problems and by the time the final whistle came most of us had cramp, which was awful," he said.

"We were lucky to win.
"We were not fit enough but that's the way it goes sometimes.

"I'm very happy it did go our way, but I expect

Harefield will feel hard done by."

Jordan also admitted he felt his side were under strength.

"They were a little bit stronger - they were fitter, we were treading water and with the injury to Humphreys we had to reshuffle," he said.

"It would have been nice to have a cup run, but it wasn't to be. So we move on and we're aiming for top three in the league this season."

CRUNCH: A Harefield player is tackled.

Order no: 17180726



HEDGE END TOWN. Back (from left): Steve Deacon, Tom Siley, Dave Helps, Warren Hopkins, Mike Thorn, Dave Rowe, Lloyd Crow, Anthony Sketcher, Wes Skinner (manager). Andrew Seaborne. Front: Simon King, Steve Hopkins, Blayne Kinley, Chris Williams, Jack Martin, Pat Williams.

Order no: 17180307

Who are ya?

Harefield

Goalkeeper: Ryan 'Gally' Gallantry - Good lad but a bit sensitive. Potential to be a good keeper, just needs to focus a bit more.

Full-back: Jess Stickland - Just recovered from a serious knee injury. 100 per cent committed. Decent little player who needs a run of games without getting a knock.

Full-back: Andrew Powell - Great left foot, skilful and not afraid to work. Loves getting in the attacking third where he is a real threat.

Centre Back: Shawn Humphreys - Solid, dependable and never lets the team down.

Centre Back: Brandon 'Rambo' Williams - Can play anywhere and thrives. Lives for the game. Loves his football and is developing in to a good player.

Midfield: Liam Sennatt (Captain) - Skilful, strong and very rarely gives the ball away. Leads by example.

Midfield: Ryan Glasspool - Fantastic player, when he doesn't get involved with the referee or opposition. Needs a zip for his mouth.

Winger: Ryan McDermott - Lovely left foot with a good first touch who always works hard. Needs to stay in on a Friday night though.

Winger: Jamie Roberts - Great crosser of the ball and the quickest big lad in the league. Always catches full backs by surprise.

Attacking Midfield: Breon Graham - Loads of ability, just needs to be more consistent. Match winner on his day.

Striker: Callum Oliver - Can play anywhere. Reads the game well, good in the air and on the floor. His team lost a bit when he went back to centre back due to an injury last weekend.

Striker: Tom Hawkins - Another lad who has been very unlucky with injuries. Hasn't had a chance to get a decent run in the team.

Meet the manager

STEVE JORDAN (HAREFIELD)

Age: 52

From: Sholing

Occupation: Plumber

Who do you support: Saints

Favourite player: Matt Le Tissier, followed closely by George Best

Best footballing moment: Co-managing West End to the Soton Premier League and Hampshire Intermediate Cup double in 95/96.

Best goal you have ever seen: You will go a long way to see a better goal than the one we scored last weekend. Great ball in from Ryan Glasspool and a fantastic header from Callum Oliver.

Ambitions for the club: Get to the Southampton Premier League and then who knows? Would be nice to find a pitch close to Harefield and then we would get a lot more support.

Team check

Nickname: N/A.

League: Southampton Saturday League Senior One

Local Pub: Hare and Hounds

Skipper: Liam Sennatt

Moaner: We have a few of these but the most consistent winner of this award would have to be Ryan Glasspool.

Mr Motivator: Gaffer - Steve Jordan

Worst Haircut: Would have been Rambo (Brandon Williams) before he had his Fellaini trim. The lad who has always had the same style is Liam Sennatt, he doesn't like change.

Club Joker: Jamie Roberts. Never takes anything too seriously.

The Professional: Without a doubt Rambo (Brandon Williams).

Worst car: Not many of the lads have cars, but Ryan Glasspool seems very attached to his... maybe a bit too attached.

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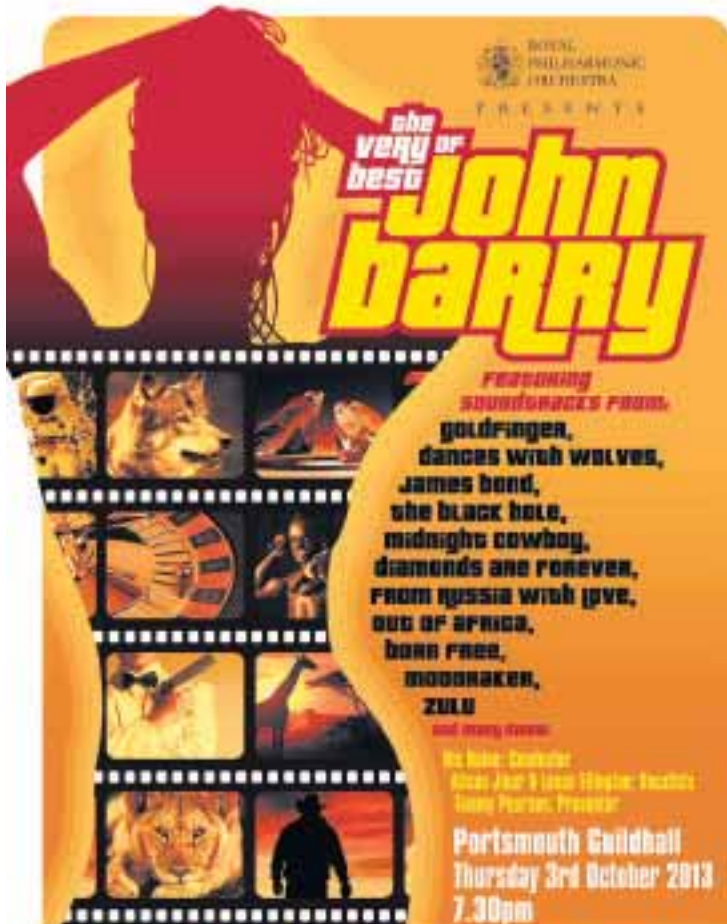
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Hampshire Cricket Spotlight



RETURN? Neil McKenzie.



PROSPECT: Chris Wood.



KEY MAN: Liam Dawson.



PEAK YEARS: James Tomlinson.



PEAK YEARS: Sean Ervine.

THERE IS LIFE

HOW can Hampshire replicate their limited-overs success in the LV County Championship?

That is the question at the heart of the discussions between Giles White, Rod Bransgrove and Jimmy Adams as they plan for 2014.

It will not be easy. Maintaining their outstanding recent record in the t20 and one-day competitions will be difficult enough in the post-Dimi Mascarenhas era, especially if Neil McKenzie is not re-signed.

But there are also a lot of reasons to be optimistic.

Here are seven to start with; James Vince, Liam Dawson, Chris Wood, Adam Wheater, Danny Briggs, Michael Bates. And, following his arrival on a three-year contract,

Simon Walter

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CRICKET REPORTER

Matt Coles.

That is the core of a team which should serve Hampshire well for the next decade.

They are all aged 23 or under, several years from their prime, and there are more bright prospects coming through the academy.

Michael Carberry, Jimmy Adams, Sean Ervine, and James Tomlinson are in their peak years, providing the current side with a healthy dose of experience.

Throw in an overseas player of sufficient quality and it is suddenly looks like a team capable of challenging for promotion next year.

Finding an overseas player who is available all season will not be easy, but signing Coles has taken some of the pressure off.

Hampshire now have the strike bowler they have been crying out for all season.

On the evidence of the last two games, which have seen the former Kent man bowl Hampshire to back-to-back Championship wins with 15 wickets at 15 apiece, the signing of the former England Lions all-rounder on a permanent basis is a real coup.

He has had disciplinary issues in the past but a fresh start

could be the making of him.

At his best, Coles bowls with his heart on his sleeve and with genuine pace.

If he can show consistently produce the form he has shown over the last ten days he will soon become a crowd favourite, as taking wickets has been Hampshire's trouble all season in the Championship.

Some bland wickets have not helped, with players from both sides struggling to bowl teams out twice.

But that has been the case away from home as well, with the re-introduction of the heavy roller making life more difficult than ever for bowlers, putting Tomlinson's achievements as Hampshire's only



NEW SIGNING: Matt Coles, right.

Hampshire Cricket Spotlight

AFTER DIMI ..

Coles signing a step in the right direction as Hants look to improve four-day form

bowler to take 50-plus wickets in an even better light.

Only once in the last 21 years have Hampshire drawn more games in a season than the nine stalemates this year.

That has been very frustrating for Hampshire's players and helped persuade Jimmy Adams to accept an unlikely chase of 411 against Gloucestershire in mid-season.

"We probably took a gamble we didn't need to in a couple of games," he said.

But to blame Adams for that would be harsh.

It was refreshing to see a contest after four successive Hampshire draws, including Lancashire's much-maligned decision to bat on and on in late May.

With only three points available for a draw these days and no threat of relegation

tion in the second division, it was a shame that more games were not enlivened by some lateral thinking and a willingness to risk defeat in pursuit of victory.

"We found Championship cricket through the middle a tough

slog," admitted Adams, whose side showed what was possible at the Ageas Bowl by bookending their season with wins by an innings against Worcestershire and Essex.

In stark contrast, the Royals' limited-overs performances were a joy to watch until they reached the respective semi-finals.

They were more consistent than they were in winning the historic double of last year before failing to deliver on the big occasion this time.

Their records in the group stages of the Friends Life t20 and YB40 were the best in the country.

No-one could have asked for more from the defending champions.

Winning a home quarter-final and a home semi-final was one of their goals at the start of the season and they achieved both in style.

But, having beaten Lancashire in the last eight of the t20 in what was probably the game of the season (they defended a Michael Carberry-inspired 202-3 by a single run), Hampshire's game-plan unraveled

against Surrey at Edgbaston on Finals Day.

They bounced back from that disappointment to secure a place in the last four of the YB40.

But their hopes of ending Mascarenhas's career with another Lord's final ended on a gloomy day against Glamorgan three weeks ago.

Adams admitted that was the biggest single disappointment of the season.

"Dimmer's last game will stick longest over the winter, we could have done things differently but it wasn't to be," he said.

Hampshire clearly enjoy playing the shorter formats more than the Championship as they have more players suited to it, particularly bowlers like Briggs and Wood.

It is also a sign of the times. Hampshire's younger players have been brought up on a diet of Twenty20 cricket, but they are maturing.

Vince, for example, is beginning to bat for longer periods.

He and Dawson were understandably delighted with their unbroken 250-run stand in the penultimate game and they all seemed to enjoy the last Championship match against Essex as much as any of their limited-overs wins this season.

"I thought we hadn't progressed in the Championship but I've seen elements in the last two games that we can use as a great positive," said Adams.

"We can be a formidable batting unit and if we get a few guys in we can have a bowling unit that does what we've done in the last two."



PRIME YEARS: Jimmy Adams.



KEY QUESTION: Giles White.



KEY QUESTION: Rod Bransgrove.



ONE-DAY SPECIALIST: Danny Briggs.



MATURING: James Vince.

FAREWELL: Dimi Mascarenhas waves goodbye to the Hampshire fans.

TURN TO PAGES 32-33 FOR HAMPSHIRE'S PLAYER RATINGS FOR 2013

Hampshire Cricket Spotlight

SO, WHO WERE THE BEST

Jimmy Adams

A difficult season for Hampshire's LV County Championship and YB40 captain, who is yet to commit to leading the county next season. Despite having to follow James Vince and Michael Carberry at number three, he was the Royals' leading run scorer in the YB40 (519 at 51.9) and very consistent, hitting five fifties in 13 innings without passing 67, while reaching double figures every time. But his Championship form (833 runs at 39.66) was hit or miss. It included two double hundreds, against Worcestershire and Northants, at the Ageas Bowl in April and September – but six ducks in between. He was not at his 2010 best in the FL T20 (210 runs at 19.09).



6/10

Ruel Braithwaite

Has signed for next season after impressing in the short time he has been with Hampshire, following a lengthy spell at Durham. Will be determined to improve on six Championship wickets at 37 apiece in the three games he has played. It is not a record to bear comparison with the last Barbadian to play for Hampshire, one Malcolm Marshall. But he has taken five-fors in the first division before and Hampshire believe he has potential.



5/10

Liam Dawson

Enjoyed his best season yet with the bat in the Championship, finishing with 1,031 runs at 49.09 as Hampshire's number three. He was very consistent, bouncing back from a pair at Gloucestershire with six half-centuries in nine innings before scoring his first hundred of the season after passing fifty for the ninth time in at Leicestershire last week. His unbeaten 136 at Grace Road contributed to an unbroken stand of 250 with James Vince, only 30 shy of the biggest in the division all year. This was also his most prolific one-day season with the bat and he took the most catches for Hampshire in every competition. Not nearly as successful with the ball as he was last year in the Championship, but was more effective than ever in limited-overs cricket.



8/10

David Balcombe

After finishing the 2012 season as Hampshire's leading wicket-taker with 59 LV County Championship scalps at 26.9, much was expected this year. But he was left out of the last two matches of the season following a disappointing return of 22 wickets at 50.09 apiece and the arrivals of loan signings Matt Coles and Ruel Braithwaite. Was not helped by some bland Championship surfaces and was restricted to a solitary limited-overs appearance, against Scotland in the YB40. It's very important to Hampshire's 2014 promotion ambitions and his career that he returns to his form of last season, the final year of his contract.



4/10

Michael Bates

Controversially jettisoned as Hampshire's first-choice wicketkeeper in all formats, he responded admirably to the arrival of Adam Wheater. After hitting an unbeaten 179 in the first Second Eleven Championship match of the season, he went on to make 683 runs at 56.9. The members made clear their feelings by cheering him at every opportunity when he made 71 against Northants at the Ageas Bowl following his recall to Hampshire's LV County Championship side earlier this month. He made a respectable 117 runs at 29.25 in his five Championship appearances. It will be interesting to see how he is utilised next year.



6/10

Danny Briggs

Not for the first time, he was Hampshire's most effective T20 bowler, with more wickets (15 at 19 apiece) and the best economy rate of any of his teammates. But a Championship record of 22 wickets at 36 apiece is something to work on with the England Performance Programme in Australia next month. Briggs does not turn the ball enough to be regular match-winner in the four-day game, but his batting continues to develop. His 244 runs at 27.1 is the best return of his career and it included his maiden first-class fifty, 54 against Gloucestershire at Bristol in a 128-run ninth wicket stand with Jimmy Adams.



7/10

Neil McKenzie

Made one century in six Championship matches, averaging 48, and was below par in the YB40. But it was in the FLT20 where he came into his own, often seeing Hampshire to the finish line during the group stage. He was not out in no fewer than five of his eight innings, the most memorable of which was his 50-ball 71 against Sussex under the Hove floodlights, ensuring a T20 average of 100.33 (only five other players in the country averaged over 50). Suffice to say, he will be very hard to replace if Hampshire decide not to re-sign him in June. It remains to be seen whether he will be back for a fifth Hampshire stint next year. If he was able to commit to a whole season his return would already be assured, but family commitments mean he is unavailable until June and that is unlikely to fit in with Hampshire.



8/10

George Bailey

His summer ended at the Ageas Bowl in victorious fashion when he captained Australia to victory in the ODI decider earlier this month. But he did not produce the runs he hoped for during his Hampshire sojourn at the start of the season. An aggregate of 237 Championship runs at 37 was satisfactory but not the return expected of an overseas player and certainly not enough to warrant the Ashes call-up he hoped for. Run out in bizarre fashion for 93 on debut against Leicestershire, after wandering out of his crease to practise a shot he had missed, he did not pass fifty again until his final game, top scoring with 84 in the dull draw against Lancashire in May.



5/10

Sean Ervine

Nowhere near his best in the LV Championship, reaching fifty on only four occasions and finishing with only 454 runs at 25. But he redeemed himself in limited-overs cricket, particularly the latter stages of the successful group campaigns, firing Hampshire to crucial wins against Surrey in the YB40 and Middlesex in the T20. And he was the only batsman to rise to the occasion in both semi-finals. Suffice to say, his 32-ball 47 against Surrey at Finals Day and his 51-ball 54 against Glamorgan were both made in losing causes. As for his bowling, he was restricted to a single over in the FLT20 but he continues to be a very safe pair of hands. Only Liam Dawson held more catches than his 20 in the Championship, a personal best.



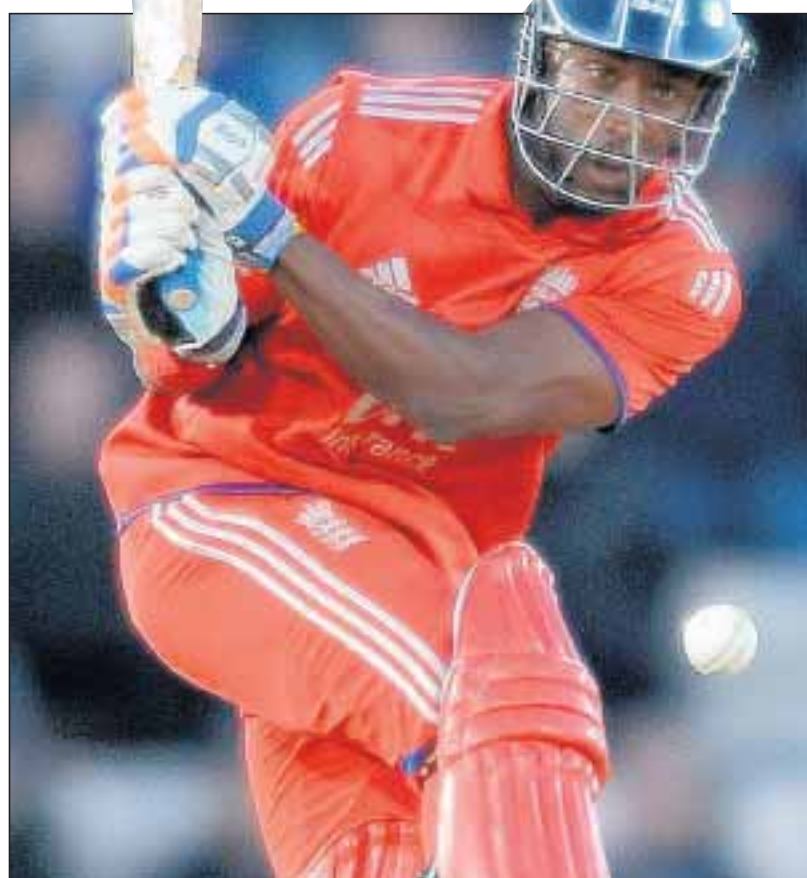
6/10

Matt Coles

His arrival on a three year-contract is a considerable boost. Coles showed what was possible against Essex this week by finishing his loan spell with career-best match figures of 10-154, including a first-innings haul of 6-71 – the best return by a seam bowler at The Ageas Bowl this year. The 23-year-old took 15 wickets at 15.3 apiece as Hampshire won their last two Championship matches, while bowling with the extra yard of pace and aggression that has been missing from the attack all season. He also made two fifties, showing the sort of form that will make him an excellent replacement for Dimi Mascarenhas in the Royals' one-day side.



7/10



Michael Carberry

His season could not have ended any better, an Ashes call-up and a full run in England's Natwest Series side reward for his outstanding form in both limited-overs competitions. There were many fine performances from Carberry this year, the most memorable both coming against Lancashire at The Ageas Bowl in the YB40 and FLT20 competitions. His unbeaten 150 (115 balls, 18 fours and five sixes) ensured a nine-wicket YB40 win and con-

tributed to an aggregate of 471 runs at 47.1 in the 40-over competition.

Carberry's unbeaten 100 (66 balls, 11 fours three sixes) in the dramatic T20 quarter-final against the Red Rose county was his maiden T20 century and helped Hampshire win a last-ball thriller.

His 502 T20 runs at 55.77 were enough to earn call-ups to England's T20 and ODI squads, while this week's Ashes inclusion was no doubt helped by his improved Championship form during the second half of the season.

A below-par but satisfactory Championship aggregate of 687 runs at 42.93 was boosted by a stunning return of 461 at 92 in his last five innings, beginning with 154 at Kent in July.

But the most important innings of Carberry's season was the 63 he made for England against Australia in Cardiff, which helped to level the Natwest Series – and secure his Ashes spot.

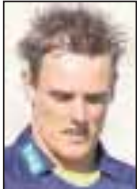
9/10

Hampshire Cricket Spotlight

PLAYERS OF 2013?

David Griffiths

Left the county for Kent earlier this month and it is hoped that he does not suffer the injuries at Canterbury that frustrated him for many seasons at the Ageas Bowl. But it was the presence of Sohail Tanvir that prevented the quickest bowler on the staff from making more first-team appearances during the second half of the season. His four T20 outings included 2-23 against Surrey at the Ageas Bowl, when he bowled with impressive pace in claiming the scalps of Jason Roy and Glenn Maxwell. But he was expensive in the YB40 and five Championship wickets at 47 apiece was a disappointing return.



4/10

Dimi Mascarenhas

Did not get the send-off he dreamed of, losing two semi-finals in his final season. His troublesome Achilles restricted him to only one Championship appearance (his last first-class analysis turned out to be a haul of 4-61 against Gloucestershire at Bristol). Not as good as he has been in the past in the limited-overs competitions but was still very effective and led the Royals impressively in the shortest format, while taking 12 wickets at 25.8. His economy with the ball (13 wickets at 24 apiece) and lusty hitting down the order was invaluable as Hampshire qualified for the YB40 semi-finals, where his county career ended with defeat at home to Glamorgan. Has now signed a Big Bash deal with the Hobart Hurricanes.



7/10

Hamza Riazuddin

Out of contract and with only three first-team appearances to his name this season, it would be no surprise if the 23 year-old is released. In his younger days he was seen as a long-term replacement for Dimi Mascarenhas and the veteran all-rounder's retirement from county cricket may provide the option of another year. But Riazuddin is not as reliable with the ball. Has not made a first-team appearance since conceding 27 from three overs against Surrey at The Oval in early May. Bowled tidily in his only first-class outings of the season (against Loughborough UCCE) but did not get the chance to add to his five career Championship appearances.



4/10

Michael Roberts

After scoring a stylish 44 on his LV County Championship debut against Gloucestershire at Bristol, he would have hoped to finish the season with a better record than 143 runs at 17.9. But he did not do badly when given the daunting task of replacing Michael Carberry during the latter stages of the YB40 campaign. Had he built on two very good starts, he would have a much better chance of earning another deal next year. His 25 against Lancashire at Old Trafford was followed by 23 in the semi-final against Glamorgan. Hampshire lost both games but Roberts may have done enough to earn another deal.



4/10

Adam Rouse

Unlikely to be kept on at the end of the season, he is already preparing for a career as a personal trainer. Made nine when he was handed his first-class debut against Kent at Canterbury in July and seven when he played as a wicketkeeper-batsman on his one-day debut against Bangladesh A in May. The 21 year-old has not added to those first-team appearances and Hampshire's raft of talented wicketkeepers, who include academy duo Tom Alsop and Lewis McManus as well as Bates and Wheeler, means he is expected to be released. The stand-out memory of his time at the Ageas Bowl was catching Kumar Sangakkara as England's 12th man during Hampshire's Test match against Sri Lanka two years ago.



4/10

Sohail Tanvir

It is safe to say that the Pakistani will not be returning for another stint as Hampshire's overseas player. While he was outstanding during the YB40 campaign (17 wickets at 12.2), his Friends Life T20 performances left a lot to be desired. Too many extras, including four wides in the semi-final, and a curate's egg of a final over against Lancashire that nearly cost Hampshire a Finals Day place, were not what was expected from an international with his experience. Ten wickets at 34.8 from four LV County Championship appearances was not a record to justify the outlay either.



4/10

Chris Wood

Was at his best in the limited-overs competitions, particularly during the group stage of the YB40, in which he finished as Hampshire's joint leading wicket-taker with 17. Only Sohail Tanvir was more expensive in the FLT20, a competition in which he took 12 wickets at 28 apiece but conceded 7.7 an over. In mitigation he bowled at the death but will have been disappointed with his performances in both semi-finals. He was the Royals' most expensive bowler against both Surrey and Glamorgan and his 15 Championship wickets at 43.9 represented his worst first-class season since breaking into the side in 2010. But he continued to average above 20 with the bat, hitting 61 and 69 in two of his last three matches, and his 30-ball 41 in the YB40 win against Essex was crucial.



6/10



James Vince

Outstanding in all formats, he was Hampshire's leading aggregate run scorer, with 1,766 overall, thanks to a career-best season in the LV County Championship (1,101 runs at 61.6.) Only Simon Katich (73) and Moeen Ali (62) averaged more in division two and his three centuries in successive

matches earlier this month ensured he passed the 1,000-run milestone for the first time. The highlights of his limited-overs season were his sensational 129 in the first game of Hampshire's YB40 defence against Essex at Chelmsford and his 30-ball 60 in the T20 quarter-final against Lancashire. Both contributed to televised century partnerships with Michael Carberry. His medium-pacers were also a

boon. He opened with Carberry for the England Lions and will spend the first month of the Ashes series with the England Performance Programme, the ECB's development squad.

9/10

Sean Terry

Did his chances of extending his Hampshire career no harm with back-to-back LV County Championship fifties in Michael Carberry's absence earlier this month. Batting at six, he made 58 against Worcestershire at New Road and then 57 as Jimmy Adams' opening partner against Leicestershire at Grace Road. Like Michael Roberts, he was on a one-year development contract this season, but the 22 year-old son of former Hampshire opener and manager Paul Terry should be kept on for another year, especially as Carberry could well be on England duty more often next year.



5/10

James Tomlinson

Hampshire's best LV Championship bowler this season, with his biggest haul of wickets (53 at 24 apiece) since his annus mirabilis of 2008. Tomlinson has strived for consistency throughout his career and it defined his season. Only once did he take five wickets in an innings (5-44 against Glamorgan at Cardiff in July), but only four bowlers (Alan Richardson, Michael Hogan, Kyle Hogg and Simon Kerrigan) took more wickets in the Championship's second tier than the 31 year-old left-arm. His success is all the more impressive considering he was shouldering the attack on some very flat wickets at the Ageas Bowl. But he found two new sources of movement, believing the new hotel encouraged swing and crediting a new grip for some of his wickets.



9/10

Adam Wheeler

Finished the season strongly with the bat, with centuries against Lancashire and, fittingly, in a winning cause against his former Essex teammates in the final game, following his controversial move from his home county six months earlier. His run-a-ball 122 this week ensured a respectable average of 36 and while he admits he is not in Michael Bates' class with the gloves, he did little wrong behind the stumps either. Was more effective in the YB40 than the T20, the highlights of his limited-overs season being a 41-ball 70 against Derbyshire and a crucial 38 against Essex.



6/10



Brad Taylor

The off-spinner's debut in the televised YB40 match against Lancashire at Old Trafford was one of the stories of the season. Aged just 16, he became Hampshire's youngest player since Charles Young in 1867. He took the big wicket of Stephen Moore with only his third ball before adding the scalp of Simon Katich. When he made his first-class debut against Lancashire at Southport, he also became Hampshire's youngest Championship player, beating Alex Kennedy's 1907 record by just one day. And he impressed then as well, dismissing the top four in taking 4-64 in the second innings, before hitting 20 from only 27 balls.

7/10

YB40 LEAGUE SEASON

May 3 Essex (a)
Essex 244-7, Hampshire 245-1 (J Vince 129no)
Won by nine wickets

May 5 Scotland (h)
Scotland 192-7, Hampshire 194-5 (J Adams 51, L Dawson 54no). **Won by nine wickets**

May 6 Surrey (a)
Hampshire 228 (S Ervine 63), Surrey 229-1.
Lost by nine wickets

May 19 Durham Dynamos (h)
Durham 241-8 (C Wood 3-37, D Griffiths 3-42), Hampshire 242-5 (M Carberry 96, J Adams 67)
Won by 5 wickets

May 22 Lancashire (h)
Lancashire 244-6, Hampshire 250-1 (M Carberry 150no, J Adams 66no). **Won by 9 wickets**

June 19 Derbyshire (h)
Hampshire 277 (M Carberry 53, A Wheeler 70), Derbyshire 231-8 (S Tanvir 3-42). **Won by 46 runs.**

June 22 Durham (a)
Hampshire 224-9 (L Dawson 69, S Ervine 33, J Adams 32), Durham 218-4 (S Tanvir 4-39). **Lost by 6 wickets D/L**

August 11 Essex Eagles (h)
Hampshire 216 (J Vince 68), Essex 186 (S Tanvir 4-29). **Won by 30 runs.**

August 13 Scotland (a)
Scotland 136, Hampshire 137-1 (J Vince 75no, M Carberry 45). **Won by 9 wickets.**

August 15 Surrey (h)
Surrey 219-9, Hampshire 220-7 (S Ervine 65, L Dawson 40, D Mascarenhas 31). **Won by three wickets.**

August 20 Lancashire (a)
Lancashire 261 (D Mascarenhas 5-42), Hampshire 256-8 (N McKenzie 65, S Ervine 43, J Adams 41). **Lost by 5 runs.**

August 26 Derbyshire Falcons (a)
Hampshire 219 (J Adams 64, J Vince 40), Derbyshire 178 (C Wood 3-23, M Carberry 3-37). **Won by 41 runs.**

September 7 Glamorgan (h), semi final
Glamorgan 234-4, Hampshire 203-8 (J Adams 59, S Ervine 54). **Lost by 31 runs.**

Batting

	M	I	NO	Rns	HS	Av	100	50
J Adams	13	13	3	519	67	51.90	0	5
M Carberry	11	11	1	471	150*	47.10	1	0
J Vince	12	12	2	396	129*	39.60	1	2
L Dawson	13	10	2	318	69	39.75	0	2
S Ervine	12	10	1	311	65*	34.55	0	3
A Wheeler	12	10	3	195	70	27.85	0	1
N McKenzie	8	7	0	168	65	24.00	0	1
D Mascarenhas	10	7	1	112	31	18.66	0	0
G Bailey	5	3	0	46	24	15.33	0	0
C Wood	13	8	4	90	41	22.50	0	0
M Roberts	3	2	0	48	25	24.00	0	0
S Terry	1	1	0	33	33	33.00	0	0
H Riazuddin	3	1	0	15	15	15.00	0	0
S Tanvir	6	3	2	14	11*	14.00	0	0
D Briggs	12	3	2	7	6	7.00	0	0
J Tomlinson	2	1	1	1*	-	0	0	0
D Griffiths	4	1	1	0	0*	-	0	0
D Balcombe	1	0						
M Bates	1	0						
B Taylor	1	0						

Bowling

	Rns	Wkts	BB	Ave	SR	Econ
S Tanvir	207	17	4/29	12.17	16.64	4.38
C Wood	532	17	3/23	31.29	34.05	5.51
D Mascarenhas	315	13	5/42	24.23	31.84	4.56
L Dawson	430	10	2/26	43.00	45.60	5.65
D Briggs	510	10	2/35	51.00	50.40	6.07
S Ervine	233	6	2/20	38.83	41.00	5.68
D Griffiths	164	5	3/42	32.80	26.40	7.45
M Carberry	68	3	3/37	22.66	26.00	5.23
D Balcombe	28	2	2/28	14.00	18.00	4.66
B Taylor	50	2	2/50	25.00	24.00	6.25
H Riazuddin	100	2	1/28	50.00	57.00	5.26
J Tomlinson	63	1	1/38	63.00	54.00	7.00

Hampshire Cricket Spotlight

HAMPSHIRE MADE

THEY made a good start, and they made an excellent finish too.

But in between, Hampshire's 2013 County Championship campaign was a disappointment as promotion hopes petered out.

Here, the *Sports Pink* looks back at the county's first class season ...

APRIL

Leicestershire (h)
Hants 454-7 dec (J Vince 148, G Bailey 93, S Ervine 69, A Wheeler 56no), Leicestershire 143 (J Tomlinson 4-23) & 182-5. **Match drawn.**

Rain washed out Hampshire's hopes of starting their season with victory. There was no play on the final day due to the weather, with Hampshire only needing five more wickets to win.

After being reduced to 0-2, Hampshire were indebted to debutant George Bailey (93) for his role in a 141-run third wicket stand with Liam Dawson.

That set the scene for James Vince to hit a hundred while wicket-keeper Adam Wheeler emulated Bailey with a half-century in his first Championship innings for the county.

Worcestershire (h)
Hants 500-9 dec (J Adams 219no, M Carberry 62, J Vince 52), Worcestershire 206 & 252. **Won by an innings and 42 runs.**

There was no stopping the Royals this time after enforcing the follow on for the second game in a row.

Skipper Jimmy Adams scored what would turn out to be the first of two double centuries in the season – scoring more than Worcestershire managed in their first innings.

After two games of the Championship season, Hampshire were top and living up to their pre-season bill as one of the favourites for promotion.

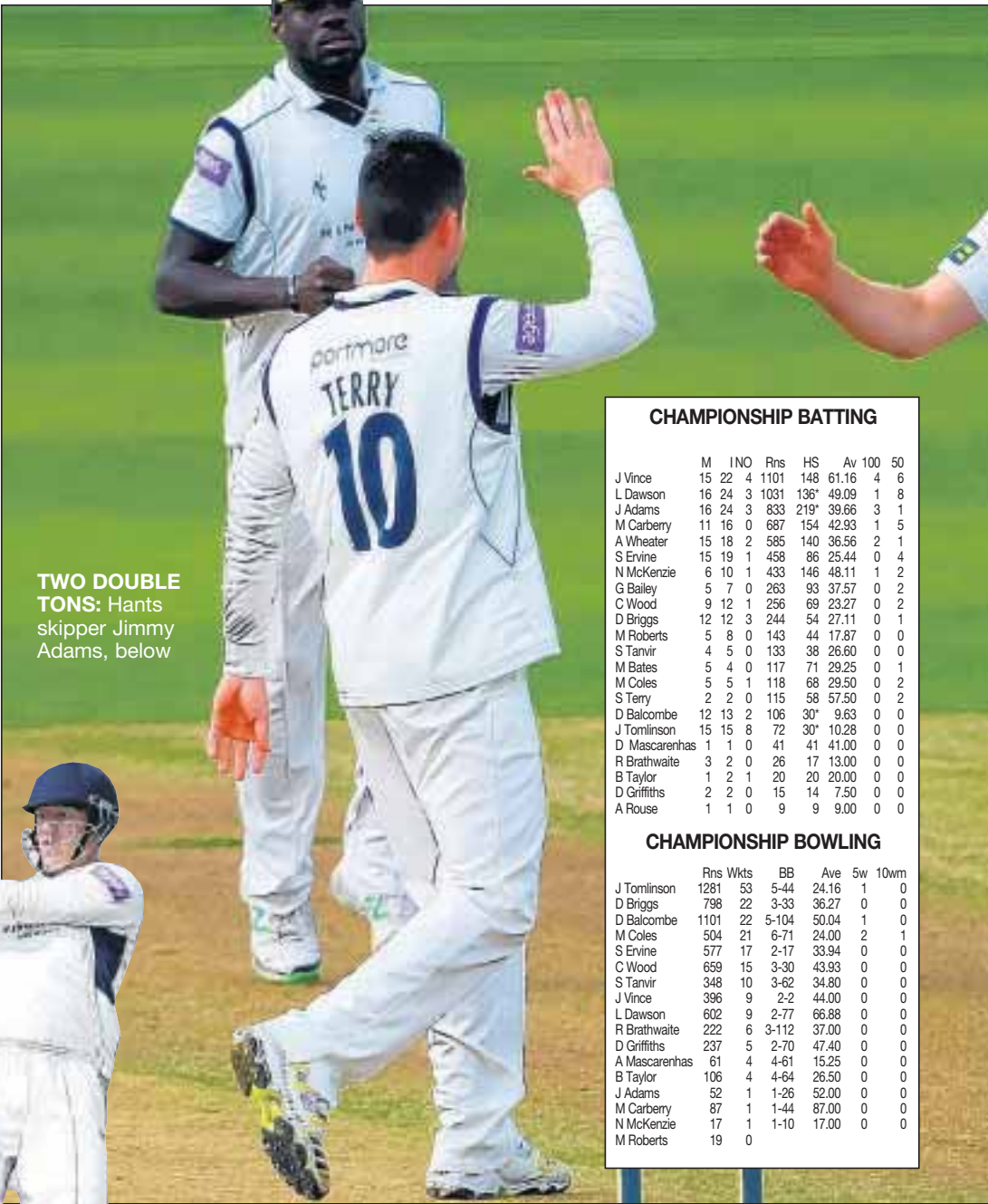
MAY

Essex (a)
Hampshire 197 (S Ervine 60) & 199 (J Vince 67, L Dawson 52), Essex 254 & 143-6. **Hampshire lost by four wickets.**

Hampshire would surely have cemented their impressive start to the new season but for a remarkable performance from Graham Napier at Chelmsford.

Twice the visitors held the upper hand, only for the all-rounder to twice produce a stunning batting display.

Replying to Hampshire's 197, Essex crumbled to 52-5 and 117-7.



TWO DOUBLE TONS: Hants skipper Jimmy Adams, below



(35no).

Then Napier, batting at No 9, top scored with 74 – adding 87 for the ninth wicket with Tim Phillips to give his side a first innings lead.

Hampshire still looked winners, though, when they reduced Essex to 31-6 in their second innings.

Napier, promoted to No 8, had other ideas, though, hitting an undefeated 78 in a match-winning stand with Mark Pettini

Gloucestershire (a)
Hampshire 274 (J Adams 138*, D Briggs 54) & 120-4, Gloucestershire 400-4 dec. **Drawn.**

Hampshire were second best in Bristol.

They slumped to 97-8 in their first innings before No 10 Danny Briggs (54) struck a career best half century while skipper Jimmy Adams carried his bat.

Gloucestershire's Australian captain Michael Klinger hit 163 as the

hosts piled up a large lead.

Lancashire (h)
Lancashire 295 (D Balcombe 5-104) & 373-6, Hampshire 258 (G Bailey 84, L Dawson 55). **Drawn.**

South African Andrea Agathangelou struck 121 as Lancashire reached 295 in their first innings.

George Bailey (84) and Jimmy Adams (44) helped take Hampshire to 138-3, before they slipped to 144-7.

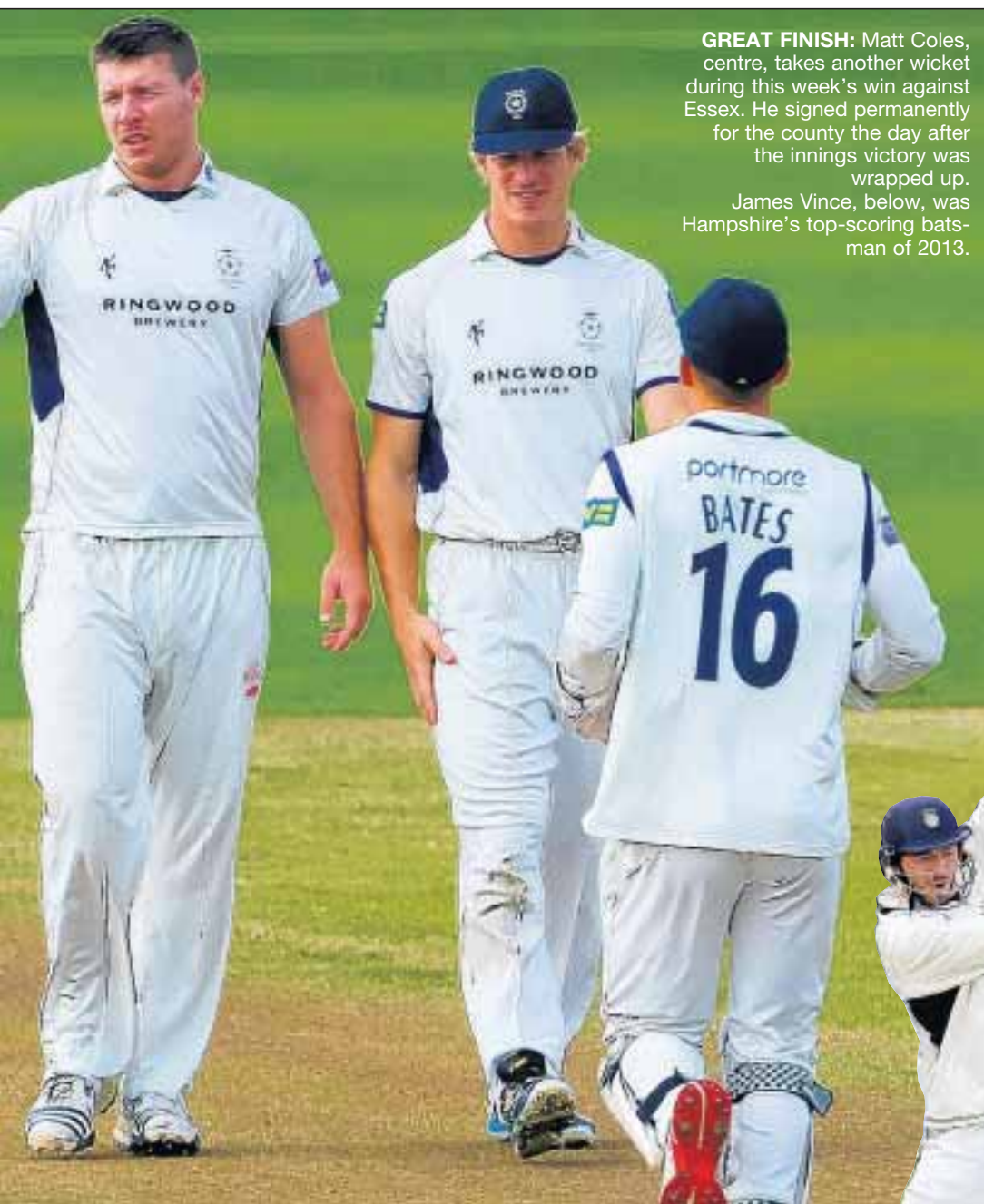
No 10 Danny Briggs (31) again hit

CHAMPIONSHIP BATTING									
	M	I	NO	Rns	HS	Av	100	50	
J Vince	15	22	4	1101	148	61.16	4	6	
L Dawson	16	24	3	1031	136*	49.09	1	8	
J Adams	16	24	3	833	219*	39.66	3	1	
M Carberry	11	16	0	687	154	42.93	1	5	
A Wheeler	15	18	2	585	140	36.56	2	1	
S Ervine	15	19	1	458	86	25.44	0	4	
N McKenzie	6	10	1	433	146	48.11	1	2	
G Bailey	5	7	0	263	93	37.57	0	2	
C Wood	9	12	1	256	69	23.27	0	2	
D Briggs	12	12	3	244	54	27.11	0	1	
M Roberts	5	8	0	143	44	17.87	0	0	
S Tanvir	4	5	0	133	38	26.60	0	0	
M Bates	5	4	0	117	71	29.25	0	1	
M Coles	5	5	1	118	68	29.50	0	2	
S Terry	2	2	0	115	58	57.50	0	2	
D Balcombe	12	13	2	106	30*	9.63	0	0	
J Tomlinson	15	15	8	72	30*	10.28	0	0	
D Mascarenhas	1	1	0	41	41	41.00	0	0	
R Brathwaite	3	2	0	26	17	13.00	0	0	
B Taylor	1	2	1	20	20	20.00	0	0	
D Griffiths	2	2	0	15	14	7.50	0	0	
A Rouse	1	1	0	9	9	9.00	0	0	

CHAMPIONSHIP BOWLING									
	Rns	Wkts	BB	Ave	5w	10wm			
J Tomlinson	1281	53	5-44	24.16	1	0			
D Briggs	798	22	3-33	36.27	0	0			
D Balcombe	1101	22	5-104	50.04	1	0			
M Coles	504	21	6-71	24.00	2	1			
S Ervine	577	17	2-17	33.94	0	0			
C Wood	659	15	3-30	43.93	0	0			
S Tanvir	348	10	3-62	34.80	0	0			
J Vince	396	9	2-2	44.00	0	0			
L Dawson	602	9	2-77	66.88	0	0			
R Brathwaite	222	6	3-112	37.00	0	0			
D Griffiths	237	5	2-70	47.40	0	0			
A Mascarenhas	61	4	4-61	15.25	0	0			
B Taylor	106	4	4-64	26.50	0	0			
J Adams	52	1	1-26	52.00	0	0			
M Carberry	87	1	1-44	87.00	0	0			
N McKenzie	17	1	1-10	17.00	0	0			
M Roberts	19	0							

Hampshire Cricket Spotlight

A BRIGHT START...



GREAT FINISH: Matt Coles, centre, takes another wicket during this week's win against Essex. He signed permanently for the county the day after the innings victory was wrapped up.

James Vince, below, was Hampshire's top-scoring batsman of 2013.

form with the bat but Hampshire's victory hopes had gone.

Lancashire rattled up the runs in their second innings thanks to centuries from No 6 Steven Croft (101) and No 7 Gareth Cross (100).

JUNE

Northants (a)
Hampshire 206 (L Dawson 76), Northants 425-9 (J Tomlinson 3-75). **Drawn.**

Another game where Hampshire

didn't get enough runs on the board first time out, before letting their opponents hit 400 plus.

Even though they only hit 206, though, the Royals should still have established a first innings lead.

They had Northants 132-5 and 172-7 before allowing them to stage a phenomenal recovery.

Andrew Hall (130) and No 9 Trent Copeland (63) added 119 for the eighth wicket before Hall and No 10 David Murphy (81) put on another 132 for the tenth wicket.

Murphy's score was the highest ever

by a No 10 against Hampshire in Championship history.

Kent (h)
Hampshire 455

(N McKenzie 146, S Ervine 86, J Adams 65) & 207-3 dec (L Dawson 87no, J Vince 79no), Kent 321

& 298-8. **Drawn.**

Hampshire were just two wickets away from claiming a much needed victory. Kent's ninth wicket pairing of Calum Haggett and Adam Riley survived more than 21 overs to deny the Royals.

Neil McKenzie had starred for Hampshire with a century in his first Championship innings of the season.

Gloucestershire (h)
Gloucestershire 410 (D Mascarenhas 4-61), Hampshire 212 (D Mascarenhas 41). **Lost by 198 runs.**

Hampshire suffered a comprehensive defeat in a single innings game after the first day's play was totally washed out.

Former Ageas Bowl batsman Benny Howell (54) was among the runs as the visitors rattled up over 400 for the second time this season against Hampshire.

The hosts slipped to 136-7 and were only spared an even heavier beating thanks to lower order trio Dimi Mascarenhas (41), Adam Wheeler (38) and Sohail Tanvir (37).

JULY

Glamorgan (a)
Hampshire 341 (J Vince 80, L Dawson 72) & 179 (N McKenzie 67), Glamorgan 300 & 177 (J Tomlinson 5-44). **Hampshire won by 43 runs.**

James

Tomlinson was the architect of Hampshire's second Championship win of the summer.

A match that was always close saw Tomlinson take four wickets as Glamorgan slipped to 58-5 in their second innings in Cardiff.

Earlier, Hampshire had been indebted to Neil McKenzie (67) and Sohail Tanvir (37) for a century partnership after they had slumped to 53-6 in their second innings – leading by only 94 runs with four wickets left.

Kent (a)

Hampshire 405 (M Carberry 145, L Dawson 75, S Ervine 72) & 200-4 (L Dawson 78no, M Carberry 66), Kent 513 (J Tomlinson 3-72). **Drawn.**

Michael Carberry struck his first Championship ton of the summer in a drawn encounter at Canterbury which was little more than a batsman's paradise. Rob Key (180) and Brendan Nash (126) starred for the hosts.

Cont on page 36

T20 LEAGUE SEASON

June 26 Surrey

Surrey 139-6 (Griffiths 2-23, D Briggs 2-20)
Hampshire 144-5 (M Carberry 60, N McKenzie 37). **Won by five wickets.**

June 28 Essex Eagles (a)

Essex 18-1, **abandoned**

June 5 Sussex Sharks (a).

Sussex 145-6, Hampshire 148-5 (N McKenzie 71no, M Carberry 50). **Won by five wickets.**

12 Sussex Sharks (h)

Sussex 118-7, Hampshire 122-6 (M Carberry 41). **Won by four wickets.**

14 Middlesex (Richmond)

Middlesex 162-5, Hampshire 164-3 (J Vince 84, M Carberry 43). **Won by seven wickets.**

19 Surrey (a)

Surrey 126-6, Hampshire 127-3 (J Adams 30, S Ervine 28no). **Won by seven wickets.**

21 Kent Spitfires (h)

Kent 143-6 (S Tanvir 3-29, D Briggs 3-19), Hampshire 135-8 (N McKenzie 47). **Lost by eight runs.**

26 Essex Eagles (h)

Essex 182-5, Hampshire 183-5 (M Carberry 54, S Ervine 36). **Won by five wickets.**



TOP T20 WICKET-TAKER: Danny Briggs.

29 Kent Spitfires (a)

Hampshire 185-6 (M Carberry 83no, N McKenzie 45), Kent 123 (L Dawson 4-19). **Won by 62 runs.**

31 Middlesex (h) T20

Hampshire 190-3 (S Ervine 60no, N McKenzie 47no, J Adams 43), Middlesex 182-7. **Won by eight runs.**

7 Lancashire (h), QF

Hampshire 202-3 (M Carberry 100no, J Vince 60), Lancashire 201-4. **Won by one run.**

17 Surrey, SF

Hampshire 142-9 (S Ervine 47), Surrey 145-6. **Lost by four wickets.**

Batting

	M	I	NO	Rns	HS	Av	100s	50s
M Carberry	12	11	2	502	100*	55.77	1	4
N McKenzie	10	8	5	301	71*100.33	0	1	
J Vince	12	11	0	269	84	24.45	0	2
S Ervine	12	11	3	238	60*	29.75	0	1
J Adams	12	11	0	210	43	19.09	0	0
L Dawson	12	10	4	63	24*	10.50	0	0
D Mascarenhas	11	4	1	24	15	8.00	0	0
A Wheeler	11	5	2	22	12*	7.33	0	0
C Wood	12	2	1	13	12	13.00	0	0
S Tanvir	9	2	1	9	7*	9.00	0	0
D Briggs	12	1	1	5	5*	-	0	0
M Bates	3	1	0	0*	-	-	0	0
D Griffiths	4	0						

Bowling

	Rns	Wkts	BB	Ave	SR	Econ
D Briggs	286	15	3/19	19.06	17.60	6.50
L Dawson	277	13	4/19	21.30	17.53	7.28
S Ervine	7	0	0/7	-	-	7.00
D Griffiths	116	4	2/23	29.00	24.00	7.25
D Mascarenhas	310	12	2/19	25.83	20.50	7.56
S Tanvir	272	9	3/29	30.22	20.88	8.68
J Vince	30	1	1/5	30.00	36.00	5.00
C Wood	344	12	3/31	28.66	22.08	7.78

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... And then finished with a flourish

Continued from page 35

AUGUST

Glamorgan (h)

Hampshire 349 (M Carberry 94, J Vince 61) & 237-4 (C Wood 69, M Carberry 62), Glamorgan 478 (C Wood 3-61). **Drawn.**

Michael Carberry again impressed, while Hampshire's bowlers again toiled for little reward.

Lancashire (a)

Lancashire 421 (J Tomlinson 3-91) & 284-5 (B Taylor 4-64), Hampshire 210 (J Vince 106) & 373 (A Wheeler 140, M Coles 68). Hants lost by 122 runs.

Sixteen-year-old Brad Taylor impressed on his debut with a four-wicket haul in the second innings of Hampshire's defeat against the champions-elect at Southport.

There was no much else for the visitors to get excited about, after allowing No 10 Greg Chapple (63) and No 11 Steve Kerrigan (62no) -



IN-FORM: Adam Wheeler.

the latter a career best score - add 114 for the last Lancashire wicket in the first innings.

Then only James Vince stopped Hampshire from being embarrassed as they slumped to 92-5.

It was a similar tale in their second innings, Hampshire falling to 63-5.

Thanks to Adam Wheeler's maiden century for the county, and 68 from Kent loanee Matt Coles, the visitors at least avoided a humiliating defeat.

The result, though, showed how far away they were from being able to match the division's best.

SEPTEMBER

Northamptonshire (h)

Northants 438 & 135-3, Hampshire 545 (J Adams 218, M Bates 71, N McKenzie 52). **Drawn.**

Captain Jimmy Adams struck his second double century of the season in a high-scoring draw.

Hampshire's bowlers again failed to make a big impression during Northants' first innings - where Rob Keogh hit a career best 221 - and the game was heading for a draw from an early stage.

Continued on facing page

Hampshire Cricket Spotlight

Carberry keen on an Ashes reunion

Simon Walter

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CRICKET REPORTER

MICHAEL Carberry is hoping for an Ashes reunion with Mitchell Johnson.

Carberry relished the pace of Johnson during the recent Natwest Series against Australia.

Facing 90mph-plus bullets from the in-form left-armer was the biggest adjustment for the Hampshire batsman as he played against a major cricketing nation for the first time.

His assured performances, particularly his series-levelling 63 in Cardiff, went a long way to ensuring his inclusion in England's 17-man Ashes squad this week.

Speaking at the Ageas Bowl on the day of his Ashes call-up, Carberry



recalled his first battles against Johnson since their Under-19 days in the late nineties.

He said: "Mitch was sending them down quickly, especially with the new ball! I wasn't out there long enough for the first couple of games but the spell he bowled to me at Cardiff... he was flying in!"

"He bowled pretty quickly here as well. Pace is the true test of a batsmen's technique, and more importantly temperament, but I felt very comfortable playing him."

"Anyone bowling at nearly 95mph consistently is going to be a handful but if you back your preparations and have a lot of self-belief out there, he can be played."

Carberry, 33 today, had not faced anyone as quick as Johnson before, but did not change anything last week.

"There are guys who can bowl a quick ball but not many still around



ASHES: Michael Carberry in action for England earlier this summer and, inset, Mitchell Johnson.

who bowl consistently at 90mph," he continued.

"You just go back to your basics and I felt my preparation going into each game was as good as it could have been."

"It was just about watching the ball and doing the same things you would do against a bowler bowling at 80mph."

"I enjoyed the battle as much as Mitchell, seeing that my technique was good enough to stand up to that

kind of pace."

"I gave a good account of myself, by playing nice and straight."

Carberry played his only other Test in Bangladesh three-and-a-half years ago and believes Johnson's own impressive form will earn him a Test recall after being dropped following Australia's disastrous tour of India earlier this year.

He continued: "Based on how he bowled in the one-day series he's definitely a strong candidate to play

in the Tests. I've known Mitchell a long time, he's been through his own troubles so if he does get back in I hope he takes his chance."

"As a kid it was a dream of mine to play the best in the world and Mitchell's one of the best in the world, although I don't want him to do too well!"

"There'll be no love lost on the field, there will always be banter when England play Australia, which all adds to the spice."

Hampshire Cricket Spotlight



CARBS INSPIRES YOUNG GUNS

Simon Walter

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CRICKET REPORTER

HAMPSHIRE chairman Rod Bransgrove believes Michael Carberry's Ashes call-up sends the right message to rest of the county's young squad.

Had it not been for the blood clots on his lungs that were discovered six months after his only Test appearance, Carberry, pictured, might already be an established international.

But the resilience allied to his natural talent has given him his second chance at the age of 33.

Bransgrove said: "It's been a long road for Michael Carberry since his illness and he's approached it with his usual diligence.

"Just as he was getting his chance a few years ago, he suffered an unfortunate illness which set him back a long way, but his response has been exemplary and I hope it sets an example to everybody.

"It just shows there's an England place there if you're good enough and you work hard enough because Carbs is the hardest-working cricketer I've known here since [Nic] Pothas.

"He's just totally committed to excellence and now he's got his reward.

"It's a real uplift for everyone at the club because it demonstrates once and for all that hard work pays. That's what Michael has done.

"He got his opportunity in the one-dayers, he's obviously impressed the selectors and now he's got in on the Ashes tour, which is fantastic."

Like Carberry, Bransgrove and Hampshire manager Giles White were told the news last Sunday, the day before the squad was announced.

"I was always hopeful, I always have been for Michael because I know what a fantastic cricketer and sportsman he is," continued

Bransgrove.

"He's an amazing athlete, totally dedicated to high performance and they're a rare commodity.

"It's a culture we established here but no-one works harder than Michael Carberry."

The inclusion of James Vince and Danny Briggs on the England Performance Programme, which will be shadowing the full squad during the first month of the tour, is a further boost for Hampshire.

"They've also worked very hard on their game and keep moving forward, Vince in particular has had a very good season," added Bransgrove.

First-team manager White concurs: "A few of the younger players are pushing their case too. The selectors have been in regular contact in the last few years and Carbs is always one they ask about, amongst others."

White was enjoying a family bike ride when he was told of Carberry's call-up by national selector Geoff Miller.

"I was surprised in some ways but in other ways not, he did himself a lot of favours in the one-day series," he said.

"He's been one of the outstanding county performers in all forms of the game this year, particularly the YB40 and t20 formats where he's really excelled.

"He's got a good technique and is one of the higher run getters in county cricket over the last few years so he fully deserves it and we're all immensely proud of him.

"Ups and downs have been a familiar theme throughout his career but have made him stronger, that's the key.

He's stayed positive, kept churning out the runs and it's great he's been recognised. It looks like he's next man in rather than an immediate choice but anything can happen, things can change very quickly on tour.

"Knowing Carbs, he'll work his socks off and look to make the most of the practice games."

They will be against Western Australia (Oct 31- Nov 2), Australia A (Nov 6-9) and New South Wales (Nov 13-16) before the first Test in Brisbane begins on November 21.

Final victory adds gloss to season

Continued from page 35

Worcestershire (a)

Hampshire 428 (J Vince 106, L Dawson 70, C Wood 61, S Terry 58, M Coles 50no) & 69-2, Worcs 351 (J Tomlinson 4-85). **Drawn.**

Another hundred from James Vince and a career best 58 from Sean Terry, taking advantage of a rare chance to impress as Michael Carberry was on England duty, were Hampshire's highlights in another high-scoring draw.

Leicestershire (a)

Hampshire 364-2 (L Dawson 136no, J Vince 147no), Leicestershire 184 (M Coles 5-75). **Hampshire won by 180 runs.**

Matt Coles did his chances of landing a permanent move to Hampshire no harm with a five-wicket burst in a game reduced to a single innings per side.



MATT COLES

Asked to chase 365 for victory, Leicestershire – rock bottom of the Championship's second tier – crumbled to 36-5 with Coles taking three of the wickets.

Though No 8 Trevor Wells lashed a career best 82, there was only ever going to be one winner.

Earlier, James Vince had continued his great late-season form with his third hundred in as many matches (having missed the draw against Northants through injury).

Essex (h)

Hampshire 456 (A Wheeler 122, M Carberry 85, J Vince 82), Essex 207 (M Coles 6-71) & 218 (J Tomlinson 4-63, M Coles 4-83). **Hampshire won by an innings and 31 runs.**

Adam Wheeler scored his second Hampshire century against his former county as the Royals signed off the season with a second comprehensive victory in a row.

Wheeler put the icing on the cake after Michael Carberry and James Vince had gone close to three figures on the first day.

Kent loanee Matt Coles then bagged the first six-wicket haul by any Hampshire bowler in 2013 as Essex were asked to follow on.

Coles finished with ten wickets in the match, the first Hampshire player to achieve such a feat in the Championship in 2013.

Hampshire Cricket Spotlight



Did You Know?

MOST of the England A team that went on tour to South Africa 20 years ago ended their careers having played Test cricket. They included John Crawley and Dominic Cork, who both went on to appear for Hampshire.

1993/94 - tour of South Africa

	Cps	Debut
Mark Lathwell (Somerset)	2	1993
Hugh Morris (Glamorgan)	3	1991
Adrian Dale (Glamorgan)	0	
Alan Wells (Sussex)	1	1995
John Crawley (Lancs)	37	1994
Mal Loye (Northants)	0	
Steve Rhodes (Worcs)	11	1994
Robert Croft (Glamorgan)	21	1996
Dominic Cork (Derbys)	37	1995
Darren Gough (Yorks)	58	1994
Martin Bicknell (Surrey)	4	1993
Mark Ilett (Essex)	5	1993
Martin McCague (Kent)	3	1993
Paul Taylor (Leics)	2	1993
Peter Such (Essex)	11	1993

THE England academy squad that toured Australia 12 years ago contained the likes of Andrew Strauss, Ian Bell, Kevin Pietersen and Steve Harmison. But it also contained five players who would not go on to play Test cricket, including ex-Hampshire batsman Derek Kenway.

2001/02 - tour of Australia

	Caps
Andrew Strauss (Middlesex)	100
Nicky Peng (Durham)	0
Owais Shah (Middlesex)	6
Andrew Flintoff (Lancs)	78
Ian Bell (Warwick)	93
Matt Wood (Yorkshire)	0
Mark Wagh (Warwick)	0
Derek Kenway (Hants)	0
Chirs Schofield (Surrey)	2
Mark Wallace (Glamorgan)	0
Steve Harmison (Durham)	62
Chris Tremlett (Hants)	11

The majority of players who went on the England A tour 10 years ago never played Test cricket for the country.

Kevin Pietersen and Matt Prior were the only two who have gone on to establish themselves on the Test scene.

The 2003/04 squad featured former Hampshire man Simon Francis and future Royals Michael Lumb and Bilal Shafayat.

2003/04 - tour of India and Malaysia

	Caps
Ed Smith (Middlesex)	3
Kadeer Ali (Worcs)	0
Kevin Pietersen (Notts)	99
Michael Lumb (Yorks)	0
Scott Newman (Surrey)	0
Matt Prior (Sussex)	72
Sajid Mahmood (Lancs)	8
Alex Gidman (Gloucs)	0
Bilal Shafayat (Notts)	0
Graham Napier (Essex)	0
Graham Wagg (Glamorgan)	0
James Tredwell (Kent)	1
Shaftab Khalid (Worcs)	0
Simon Francis (Somerset)	0
Simon Jones (Glamorgan)	18

ENGLAND'S FUTURE

Hampshire stars are key parts of England line-up

JAMES Vince has been given the chance to show the England selectors he is worthy of one day following Michael Carberry into the senior international squads.

The in-form Hampshire batsman was this week named in the 16-man England Performance Programme squad which will play two games in Australia in late November and early December as well as providing back-up to the main Ashes squad. The EPP selectors plumped for the batsmen in form when selecting their winter squad.

Both Vince and Middlesex's Stuart Robson – the latter Sydney-born but who qualified to play for England through residency this summer – have just passed 1,000 Championship runs for the first time in their careers.

Worcestershire's Moeen Ali entered the final round of Championship games as the leading runscorer in either division, with 1,331.

This has easily been his best ever season, with more than double the amount of first class runs he scored from virtually the same amount of innings in 2012.

Warwickshire's Varun Chopra was also called up after passing the 1,000 runs first class milestone for the third time in five seasons.

And Essex's 20-year-old Ben Foakes has passed 500 Championship runs in his first

Simon Carter

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SPORTS EDITOR

season as a 1st XI regular.

Some of the bowlers named in the EPP squad have also enjoyed their best ever domestic first class seasons.

Sussex's Chris Jordan has claimed more Championship wickets this season than in the previous four years put together, while Essex's Reece Topley and Lancashire's Steven Kerrigan have also taken career best wicket hauls in 2013.

Somerset's 19-year-old seamer Jamie Kerrigan is another selected after a career best Championship performance this summer – over 30 wickets in his first season as a first team regular.

Overton's Taunton colleague Jos Buttler was also selected after a summer in which he showcased his batting talents for the England ODI team.

The 23-year-old wicket-keeper blazed an unbeaten 47 off just 16 balls to help England win an ODI against New Zealand at Trent Bridge, and earlier this month swatted an undefeated 65 off 48 balls as England defeated Australia in Cardiff.

Buttler, Jordan and Hampshire's Danny Briggs are the three members of the EPP squad to have played ODI cricket for England, while Kerrigan is the only man to have played a Test.

Briggs went into the final Championship game of the season against Essex having bagged 25 first class wickets in 2013.

While that is not a huge amount – compared to his career best 38-wicket haul in 2011 – it is a large improvement on the five he was restricted to in 2012.

Having played just four Championship games in 2012, Briggs will have been pleased to have reclaimed his place as a regular this summer – having appeared in 13 of Hampshire's 16 four-day games.

The EPP will spend a period training at the National Cricket Performance Centre in Loughborough followed by a month in Australia where they will also be back up for the senior squad as they bid to retain the Ashes.

The EPP will be based in Brisbane for a fortnight followed by two weeks in Perth.

Two of the players included in the squad, Robson and Durham pace bowler Mark Wood, are yet to be selected for England programmes in any format.

"The EPP provides an excellent opportunity for those players identified as having considerable talent to train together in an England environment throughout the winter and further develop as cricketers and this is an exciting young squad who have impressed in domestic cricket recently," said national selector Geoff Miller.

"The time spent at the National Cricket Performance Centre in Loughborough and Australia allows our coaches to work intensively with the players and assess their readiness to graduate to the full England side when the opportunity arises."



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Hampshire Cricket Spotlight

IS LOOKING BRIGHT

England Performance Programme Squad ages

MM Ali (Worcestershire),	.26
DR Briggs (Hampshire),	. .22
JC Buttler (Somerset)	. . .23
V Chopra (Warwickshire),	26
BT Foakes (Essex)20
JAR Harris (Middlesex),	. .23
CJ Jordan (Sussex),24
SC Kerrigan (Lancashire),	24
AZ Lees (Yorkshire),20
TS Mills (Essex),21
J Overton (Somerset)*,	. .19
SD Robson (Middlesex),	.24
RJW Topley (Essex),19
JM Vince (Hampshire),	. .22
DJ Willey (Northants)	. . .23
MA Wood (Durham)*,23

*Will not travel to Australia

ENGLAND CALL: James Vince (main pic) and Danny Briggs (left) will travel with the England Performance Programme squad to Australia this winter.

Career stalls for former England skipper Hamza

JAMES Vince is no stranger to the England international scene.

Back in the summer of 2009 he played two under-19 Tests against Bangladesh at Scarborough and Derby.

Of the team that played in the first Test four years ago, only one – James Taylor – has since gone on to make his senior Test debut for England.

One other, Scott Borthwick, has made two ODI appearances.

Seven of the others were Hampshire's Chris Wood, Josh Cobb, Jaik Mickleburgh, Luke Wells, Azeem Rafiq, Tom Poynton and Nathan Buck.

The final member of the XI was not only a third Hampshire player, he was the captain of the England side.

But Hamza Riazuddin's career has yet to really take off since he made his Championship debut for the county in a remarkable game at Somerset in May 2008.

On that occasion, James Tomlinson took all six wickets as Somerset were reduced to 23-6 on the first morning.

Riazuddin claimed his maiden Championship wicket, Ian Blackwell, as the hosts were dismissed for 126 (Tomlinson 8-46).

Second time around, Riazuddin returned 0-78 as Somerset amassed 654-6 declared to easily claim a draw.

Since then, Riazuddin has only played four more Championship games for Hampshire – all in the first few weeks of the 2012 campaign.

He is now out of contract and must anxiously wait to see whether he is offered a new one.

Riazuddin has only played four first XI games this summer – three in the YB 40 and the tour match against Bangladesh A.

A poor return, therefore, for a man who captained his country only four years ago.



BOOK of the WEEK

Immortal: the Approved Biography of George Best
By Duncan Hamilton

Sportsbookofthemonth.com
price: £12.00 saving £8.00 on rrp

After Sergio Aguero had joyfully side-footed in Manchester City's third goal against United last Sunday, television viewers were treated to seeing the strike at least twice from perhaps half a dozen different angles.

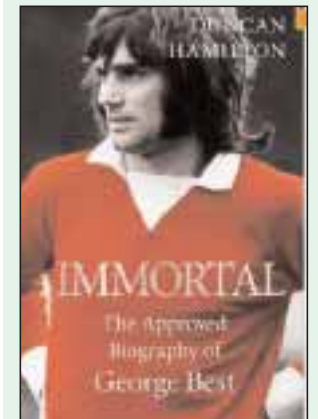
It's the nature of modern football, modern sport; broadcasters must ensure the moment is seared into our collective memory banks, irrespective of whether it's a meaningless tap-in, or a screamer struck from 30 yards.

There can never be too many replays...

This point is worth bearing in mind when reading Duncan Hamilton's excellent biography of George Best, for, as the author reminds us, there was "scarcely any televised football" when the northern Irishman made his debut half a century ago.

This means that Best's goals have, like many of his performances in Manchester United red, become the stuff of sepia-tinted, often wildly embellished, legend.

There is no doubt that on his day, Best could be an outstanding footballer, but he played in a very good team, surrounded by men of the calibre of Law and Charlton, both of whom were at least as influential in United's success.



Dozens of books have been written about Best, but this is the first 'approved' biography as his sister granted Hamilton access to what must have been a mountain of family material.

The author deserves great credit, therefore, for writing not a sycophantic paean to Best, but an accomplished, well-researched account which doesn't shy away from the footballer's alcoholism and his propensity to be violent towards women.

Best was essentially a nervous man who discovered much-needed confidence at the bottom of a glass, but Hamilton maintains that it wasn't drink that destroyed him. Instead, he writes, "the football was to blame".

In other words, Manchester United's rapid fall from grace (within six years of winning the European Cup, they were in the Second Division) coincided with Best's own slide and he had difficulty coping with that. Best considered drink to be the answer to both disappointments.

Best's footballing legacy is preserved mostly in black-and-white footage and the occasionally exaggerated accounts of folk who saw him play. But despite this, Hamilton has produced a warts-and-all volume which highlights the man's other, more painful side.

We're not supposed to feel sorry for him, merely regret that he never made more of his undoubted talent.

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Crook hits a top treble

LEWIS Crook's hat-trick helped AFC Bursledon thrash Foresters AFC 7-0 in the first round of the Southampton FA Junior 'A' Cup.

Ben Dashwood, Ellis Walton, Blayne Kinley and Chris Alden grabbed the other goals.

Landguard romped to a 6-1 win at AFC West End thanks to Tunde Akintolu (2), Ross Jones (2), Nathan Bygrave and Jamie King.

King George needed extra-time to beat Otter 3-2, goals from David North (2) and one for Nathan Rose clinching a dramatic victory for the hosts.

Alex Sheath and Richard Adames both netted a hat-trick as Linden Tree caned Chamberlyne Athletic 8-0 in the Premier Division of the City of Southampton Sunday League.

Paul Myburgh and Kieran Walsh completed the rout.

City Central ran riot in the second half of their game against KRL.

Despite only leading 1-0 at half-time, they finished 6-0 winners with Byron Mason, Affree Constable, AJ Cashmore, Courtney Campbell, Liam Collymore and Marvin McLean on target.

Danny Hanlon, Lee Hayes and Tom Rafferty helped Totton Town come from behind to win 3-2 at Bridge AFC. Connor Bray and Callum Stanley had given their side a 2-1 half-time lead.



BYRON MASON

Wade-ing in to the goals

IN the Senior Division, a hat-trick from Wade Wilson helped Bush Hill & Newton Heath 1977 win 5-4 at Sherfield English.

Ben Boyce and Pete Munday Jnr helped Bush Hill into a 5-2 lead, with Ryan Smith (3) and Mitchell Dovey replying.

Joe Moore netted twice as The Cricketers Arms (Fair Oak) triumphed 6-1 at Eastbrook Harriers.

Sam Treadaway, John Cole, James Bone and an own goal were also on target, Charlie Sandford replying.

AFC Horns won 2-1 against Yacht Town despite playing most of the second half with 10 men due to injury.

All the goals came in the first half with Jake Biffin and Sean Haines scoring for Horns, and Jake Bessant replying.



WADE WILSON

Glen's gold

DAN Sultana scored twice as Glen beat Sky Blues 4-2 in Junior Division 1.

Paul Wilkinson and Jake Voller also scored with Brad Snelling and Josh Hawkins replying.

HSC Southern Stars' game with Chartwell Green ended 1-1, Mario Oliveria grabbing the hosts' goal and Tony Sullivan hitting back.

Ayham Al-Muhammed struck three goals as AFC Portswood smashed Riverside Athletic 10-0 in Junior Division 2.

Eric Makate (2), Nick Green (2), Tom Godson, Pete Barlow and Rob North sealed the victory.

Lokomotiv Eastleigh caned Fleming Sports 7-0 with strikes from Darren Hitch (2), Mark Henty, Craig Howells, Sam Jordan, Myles Grainger and an own goal.

A hat-trick for Gary Whitten gave LH Galaxy a 3-1 win over RS Ocean Village, Brett Hall replying.

DREW SMITH SOUTHAMPTON SATURDAY LGE NURSLING FLY THE

NURSLING carried the Southampton League flag in the Southampton Senior Saturday Cup by overcoming an early deficit to win at Durley.

Wade Wilson struck twice, including a penalty, and Courtenay Campbell and Johnny Allen also netted in a 4-1 success, writes **ROD SUTHERLAND**.

Hedge End Town made their Premier status tell against Harefield, but only just. A last kick of extra time secured the closest of wins in a game covered in Park Scratchings (see pages 26/27).

Netley Central's 3-0 win versus Riverside was not as convincing as the result may sound.

Ricky Bull struck twice late on after Matt Watts had put Central ahead. Watts also missed a penalty that may have made it an easier passage.

Solent Saints gave Hampshire Premier Leaguers Q K Southampton a run for their money before going down 3-1 in their first competitive game of the season.

BTC defeated Hamble Reserves 4-1 with Joe Connery grabbing a brace.

ROUND 2 DRAW : AFC Stoneham v Locks Heath, AFC Totton Reserves v Hedge End Town, BTC Soton Reserves v Hedge End Rangers, Bishopstoke WMC bye, Colden Common v Hythe & Dibden or Cadnam United, Durley Reserves v Romsey Town Reserves, East Boldre v AFC Hittingbury, Eastleigh Res v AFC Grains, Fawley AFC Reserves v Nursling Folland Sports Reserves v Sholing Reserves, Hedge End Rangers Reserves v Hamble Club, Infinity v Netley Central Sports, Michelmersh & T v Q K Southampton, Southampton University v Winchester City Reserves or Comrades, Team Solent v BTC Soton, Upham v Winchester Castle.

SOUTHAMPTON JUNIOR A CUP

Osborne gained their first victory of the season in an action-packed 7-5 victory over a Compton team who had raced into a 2-0 lead.

Four goals by Ben Scarborough set them on their way after Compton were reduced to ten men.

Billy Cozens hit a five-goal salvo as Chamberlayne inflicted a 6-2 defeat on Junior 3 AFC Testwood.

Having lost 5-0 the previous week to Warsash Wasps, London Airways could have been forgiven for rolling over against the same team.

But instead they edged a 3-2 win which led to referee Mickey Thomas declaring 'what a great spirited game it was'.

Airways player manager Clem Lopez scored twice.

Bishops Waltham Dynamo produced another Cup shock defeating top flight Lowford 4-2.

A superb 25-yarder by Chris Hooper was the pick of Botley Village's 4-2 success against Inmar.

Jordan Penfold hit a hat-trick as



AFC STATION. Back (from left) Luke Petley, Steve Pendrey, Haydn Lamb, Rob Leane, Chris Eager, Lloyd Davidson, Joey Attard-Charrett, Ross Urquhart. Front: Gareth Harris, Ben Bowers, Dan Buck, Simon Marcer, Lawrence Bradley, Tom Hodges, Adam Curnow, Harry Ward.

AFC Gulf Western knocked out Otterbourne A 4-1.

Sam Wallace and Josh Harvey both netted twice as West Totton

won 5-2 at Braishfield.

DRAW: AFC Phoenix XI v Wellow, Applewood Joinery v AFC Gulf Western, Chamberlayne AFC v Botley Village, Compton Reserves v London Airways,

Langley Manor v Capital, Osborne v Chandlers Ford, Priory Rovers v Bishops Waltham Dynamos, West Totton v FC Wellington.

TURN BACK TO PAGES 26-27 FOR PARK SCRATCHINGS

DREW SMITH SOUTHAMPTON SATURDAY LGE FLAG IN THE CUP...



HEADS UP: Harefield head an early goal against Hedge End, only for it to be disallowed.

SOUTHAMPTON JUNIOR B CUP

Rob Pfeiffer scored a hat-trick as Upham Reserves thumped Mitre 6-2.

Trebles from both Greg Batten and Matt Sandle helped Athletic Romsey stun Shamblehurst 7-1.

New Forest Reserves caned Thompson 7-0 with goals from Darren Shelley (3), Gary Stoner (2) and Ross Jones (2).

Last season's losing finalists, New Forest, won 5-0 against Harefield Reserves with doubles from Daryl Gilmartin and Dan Davis.

Fancied AFC Station edged AFC Nemesis 4-3, whose glasses-wearing goalkeeper Bernard Ashworth

scored with a goal-kick.

Adam Burrows struck twice as Sporting Wessex won 3-2 against previously unbeaten FC White Horse.

DRAW: AFC Station v South Coast Sports, Hamble Utd Res v New Forest Res, New Forest v Sporting Wessex, Upham Res v Athletic Romsey.

SOUTHAMPTON VETERANS CUP

Two Jez French goals secured BTC a shock 2-1 win at reigning champions Colden Common.

Langley Manor won 4-1 against Winchester OB with last season's Golden Boot winner Nick Alp scoring twice.

Regents Park defeated BTC B 3-1

thanks to Mick Dear, Sam Mabey and Steve Baker.

Richard Jablonski and Neil Flaherty both netted twice as Wildern OB defeated Redbridge OB 5-3.

There were a worrying number of ties defaulted, for reasons unknown, including last season's runners up, Woolston, who were unable to raise a side against Follands.

DRAW : Baddesley Park bye, Compton v Sporting BTC, Follands v Old Tauntonians, Hamble Club v Wildern OB, Hedge End Rangers v BTC, Hythe Aztecs v Locks Heath, Regents Park v Langley Manor, Totton OB v Redlynch & Woodfalls.

SOUTHAMPTON LEAGUE



AFC NEMESIS. Back (from left): Michael Fielden, Shane Mair, Graham Davies, Ben Ashworth, Wes Pack, Paul Weeks, Adrian Taylor, Adam Hooper. Front: Ash Russell, Chris Walcroft, Steve Lunn, Ben Hatcher, Sam Davies, Brandon Shephard.



EYES ON THE BALL: Action from Hedge End's clash with Harefield.

Southampton University inflicted a 7-1 defeat on Bishopstoke WMC, who would have gone top had they won.

Jack Parker hit a stunning treble with Rich Amofa, Tom Courtenay, Oliver Rose and Mike Medici also scoring.

Senior 1 leaders AFC Grains also scored seven without reply against Durley Reserves with Alex Adams hitting four.

Josh Ramsey grabbed a brace as they went to the top of Senior 1 with a magnificent 16-0 goal difference.

A Josh Fernandez double helped secured Q K Southampton Reserves a 4-1 win at BTC Reserves.

Comrade Reserves won through to the second round of the Senior League Cup as they accounted for AFC Hiltingbury 2-1 courtesy of two Sean Swift goals.

Montefiore had a winning baptism to life in the Southampton League, the students edging Hamble United 4-3 with a late winner from hat-trick hero Kieran Collins, who converted two penalties.

An own goal and a penalty by Matt Burrell saw Compton Reserves on their way to a 4-2 win at Applewood Joinery.

Andy Mash and Joe Parnell scored their other two goals.

The battle of the two perfect starters in Junior 3 was won by Priory Rovers who defeated Wellow 4-1.

In the Veterans A division, Hedge End Rangers won 3-1 at Baddesley Park with goals from Paul Bran (2) and Brian Smith.

Humble Plumb took an early lead from the spot against Langley Manor but four goals from Barry Ronald and a Paul Perkins hat-trick secured Langley a 10-1 victory.

Lee Morgan netted twice as Hamble Club won 3-1 against Sporting BTC 0-40.

Vel get six of the best

AFC Velmore ran out 6-3 winners in their City of Southampton League Junior Division 3 clash against Boyatt Wood Wanderers with Ashley Hibberd (2), Alex Waldron, Jamie Johnson, Martin Waters and Darren Street on target.

Andy Digweed, Stuart Gooch and Dave Loch replied.

AFC Bishopstoke won 3-1 at Royale Marine thanks to Peter Sherlock (2) and Sunday Oshikoya. Paul Eades replied.

David Fielden scored as Chartwell Green Reserves clinched a 1-0 victory over Titans.

Nathan Gray cracked a hat-trick for Shelfside in their 4-4 draw with Eastpoint in Junior Division 4.

Daniel Davis grabbed the other, while Darren Brown struck a hat-trick for Eastpoint, Richard Cummins also on target.

AFC Gulf Western completed a great recovery to beat Durley 3-2.

A Michael Church double had put the away side 2-0 up at half-time. However, two second half goals for Keith Bailey and another for Lee Fuller gave Gulf Western the points.

Carnival UK also overturned a deficit to beat Sherfield English Reserves.

A goal down down at half time, they won 3-2. Adam Codling and Dave Hatch replied.

Itchen Saints completed the turn-arounds in the division as they beat Roll Call 2-1, Jamie Martin and Stu Fudge on target after they had fallen behind in the first half.

All square

IN Junior Division 5, Burridge AFC and Cherbourg played out a 3-3 draw.

Burridge's goals came from Jack Becheley, Richard Becheley and Karl Atkin while Darrell Coffin and Jack Harris were amongst the scorers for the away side.

Test Valley Spartans beat Bannister Park 4-2 with Tom Reed (2), Luke Freeman and Matt Sharp on target and Jamie Meredith and George Clouder replying.

AFC Marchwood defeated Portside 3-1, Dan Plumbley, Alex Cox and Ben Foster on target. Adam Hewlett replied.

Curbridge were the big winners in Junior Division 6 thanks to a 7-0 mauling of AFC Phoenix.

Sam Davies (3), James Pitre (2), Jack Buss and Peter Jacobi were on target.

Jamie Salvi's double helped JSC earn a 2-2 draw away against Athletic Totton.

AFC Southbrook won 3-1 at home to Sporting Compass with Jamie Brown (2) and John Durman scoring. Neil Curran replied.

Andy McKellar scored twice as AFC Bishopstoke Reserves beat Unity 2-1.

Nine goals

IN Junior Division 7, Riverside Park Rangers were full of praise for the performance of referee Plaman Imanov during their 9-1 victory over Netley RBL.

Sam Barrow scored twice with James Weaver, Jack Mattison, Paul Carey, Ryan Brooks, Glenn Bennett, Tom Cole and Gary Fitzehorswell also netting.

Michael Thomas grabbed his second hat-trick of the season – taking his tally to eight in three outings – as Bitterne Ducks defeated Fawley RBL 3-1.

Jason Gradidge scored twice as Mottisfont defeated New Bridge 4-2. Ryan Moody and Matt Bosanquet also scored with Callum Brown and Darren Martin replying.

CITY OF SOUTHAMPTON YOUTH LEAGUE

Red hot Pace from the start

PACE belted five second-half goals as they began their City of Southampton Under-16 League season in style.

They romped to a 6-1 victory over Winchester Castle with Sam Sharp hitting a hat-trick, writes ALAN JOHNS.

Pace started quickly, with Smart opening the scoring after three minutes following confusion in the Winchester defence.

Pace controlled the game for the next 15 minutes, Flynn missing two good chances, but Winchester levelled before half-time through Bailey Foster.

Pace started the second half with a higher tempo, shutting down Winchester and pressing higher up the pitch.

It led to them controlling the half. Five minutes after the restart Ollie Bradley slotted a ball through for Jacob Treagus to run onto and slot home to put them 2-1 ahead.

On 50 minutes, Keenan New found Treagus with a 30-yard pass and he put Smart through. He was brought down for a penalty that he converted himself.

Five minutes later Ryan Lomax, the Pace left back, split the defence for Ryan Flynn to run on and lob the keeper from the edge of the box.

Flynn came close again four minutes later when he was denied by a great save from Mathew Oaten.

After good build-up play, Flynn found Treagus on the edge of the box and he curled a shot into the far corner of the goal to make it 5-1 on 62 minutes.

Late on, Lomax drove through the midfield from left back, playing in Dailam Fard who crossed for Smart to slot home from inside the six-yard box.

Other Division 1 results: Eastleigh 9 Bitterne 1, AFC Totton 6 Sholing Red 2 (Liku Bergg 2), Hythe and Dibden 0 Eastleigh Blues 4 (Stirland 2, Beadle, Gristo).

In Division Two, despite Wellow running out 4-0 winners against Eastleigh Blue, the result was not a true reflection of the game.

The first half was fiercely contested with both teams creating chances.

Midway through the first half Wellow took the lead, Rory Saunders slipping the ball past the advancing keeper.

Then followed a frantic five minutes where Wellow scored two more goals.

The first came from a half-cleared corner which fell to Ben Caffyn on

the edge of the area and his sweet shot found the bottom corner of the net.

Wellow pressed from the kick-off and Sam Arnold converted an easy close-range chance.

Both teams retained equal possession in the second half, but, when Ben Tailby scored from another

Wellow corner that put the game beyond doubt.

A first-half hat-trick, including a penalty, from James Hooper ensured Romsey went into half-time 3-0 up against S & D.

S & D started the second half brightly and pulled a goal back, but Romsey made it 4-1 from a cross

which went in off an S&D player.

They finished the game off with 15 minutes left when Louis Wheeler poked home from six yards.

Goals from Sam Morris and Kieran Hooper-Robinson earned Hedge End Rangers victory at Bitterne.

A poor surface didn't help either team, leading to a scrappy affair with many misplaced passes.

Hedge End put together the best move of the game with slick passing from back to front and a slide rule pass for Morris to score the first. Hedge End went down to ten men after a sending off but added a late second.

Romsey Town Yellow, with goals from George Nicholson-Jack and Tom Farr, beat AFC Stoneham Purple 2-1, Joe Fysh replying. Other Division 2 results: Colden Common Sports 2 Raiders 4, Baddesley Park 1 Warsash Wasps 4.

A lively start to the Division Three game between Southside and BTC (Southampton) was halted when two players from BTC collided after about 20 minutes.

That left one with a broken tooth and the other with a nasty gash to his head, resulting them both going to hospital.

Half time saw Southside lead through great goals from Liam Williams and Jake Burt.

Both teams put on a fine second-half battle which ended in a 4-2 win to Southside, for whom Burt scored his second and Jordan Palmer added another with a long-range drive.

Itchen Bulldogs lost 5-1 at home to Sky Blues, James Mulhall replying.

Other Division 3 result: Winsor United 1 Totton & Eling 5.



NO WAY THROUGH: Bourmemouth and Poole's keeper saves at the feet of Barton Peveril's Ben Garman on Wednesday – see facing page. Picture: Chris Moorhouse. Order no: 17197357

Saints win real thriller

Kurtis nets a quick double

KURTIS Garraway netted twice as Sholing lifted the curtain on their City of Southampton Youth League season with a 3-1 Under-18 Division 1 win against Romsey Town Yellow.

Matthew Orton also scored. In Division 2, Littleton Juniors beat Wyvern Dragons 5-0 thanks to Tom Grainger, Patrick Mathias, Ed Wilson and Tom Coates-Dawkins (2).

Jamal MacDonald and Luke Queen replied as Sarisbury Sparks were beaten 9-2 by Hedge End Rangers in Division 3.

Other results Division 1: Sway 4 Warsash 1, BTC (Soton) Stoneham 8 Netley White 4. Division 2: Colden Common Rangers 5 Wyvern Wanderers 2. Division 3: Airedorf 1 Winsor United 2, St Francis Knights 0 Netley Blue 0. County Cup 1st rd: Wyvern Saints 8 Netley Royals White 1.

SOUTHAMPTON Saints Girls and Ladies' U12s couldn't have started the new season with more of a thriller.

They faced their sister team, Southampton Devils U11s, who are playing up a year this season following their success last season in their own age group.

The high tempo was good to see in the first game of the season. Both Saints and Devils looked very skilful and threatening going forward.

And both teams looked to attack whenever possible – making it a good game from the outset.

Despite training together for many weeks, it was going to be a tough match as all the girls wanted

the best possible start to the season.

Without Bradbeer, the U12s played a combination of Gook, Burroughs and Kaur in defence. They played the ball out from the back impressively from the outset in order to keep possession.

King started the scoring – after a pass from midfielder Suttie – then got another when the Devils' goalkeeper parried Suttie's long shot.

With Gilham, Hussey, Turner and Anteney working tirelessly throughout the midfield positions, The Devils managed a quick attack on the break and U11 striker Charlotte Webb beat U12s keeper Rosz. Just before half-time, on-form King's long shot from the middle of

the Devils' half found the bottom corner to take them in at half-time 3-1 up.

Gilham continued to attack down the right after the break, providing King and Anteney with perfect crosses into the box. King got onto the end of one to hit first-time her fourth goal of the game.

Hussey and Anteney worked hard up and down the pitch to help the defenders, as The Devils had a lot of pace down the wings. And Rosz was on form in goal.

Saints' fifth goal came when the pacy Turner used her skill down the left and fired her first goal of the season into the top corner.

Anteney, having her best game as

a Saints player with her crossfield passing, put a through ball between the Devils defenders to King, who continued running into the box and scored with a deflected shot.

She then claimed two more goals after quick passing between combinations of Anteney, Suttie, Turner Hussey and Gilham.

The Saints awarded the 'Opposition of the Game' to Katelyn Wort, also the Devils player of the match, for her heroic midfield efforts.

The U12s player of the match was Kia Anteney. Her passing, movement and through balls were a delight to watch. Both teams look well set for the season ahead.

HAMPSHIRE COLLEGES FOOTBALL SPOTLIGHT

ACTION: Barton Peveril take on Bournemouth and Poole.

All pics: Chris Moorhouse.
Order nos (from left to right): 17197571, 17197561 and 17197566



SAMPSON IS SPOT ON FOR PEVERIL...

JAMES Sampson's second half penalty winner earned Barton Peveril a 3-2 victory over Hampshire Sixth Form Colleges League newcomers Bournemouth & Poole at Chestnut Avenue.

Barton went 2-0 up inside the opening 20 minutes through Ben Gurman and George Barrett but B & P, with a brand new side, showed great character to wiped out the deficit before half-time, *writes MIKE VIMPANY.*

Tyler Rutton finished superbly after a one-two with Liam Griffiths and then Matt Morris equalised with a 20-yard free kick.

It could have gone either way after that, but when Dan Perry handled in the box, Sampson tucked away the penalty.

Matt Brown, the former Itchen and Sholing goalkeeper, is in charge at Bournemouth & Poole and said: "We have a new squad who have played together twice and, being new to the league, I feel it has been a good start with one win and one loss."

Champions Itchen recorded a clean sweep of wins over Sparsholt College, with the 1st XI winning 3-2, the 2nd XI 3-1, the 3rd XI by a crushing 9-1 margin.

But Itchen girls topped the lot, thrashing Sparsholt 11-1.

The 1st XI match was a high quality affair played on a very good surface at Sparsholt. Itchen started brightly enough but found themselves 2-0 down at half time follow-



CLOSE CALL: Barton Peveril's Dale Lyons in action against Bournemouth and Poole.
Order no: 17197550

ing early pressure from Sparsholt and some defensive mistakes from Itchen.

However, an impressive second half display ensured that they came away with all three points.

Straight after the break, Itchen responded by getting a lot of shots on goal, but they struggled to find the net.

Their constant pressure was rewarded when, on the hour, Braydon Douglas headed home to finish a slick Itchen move.

Parity was restored when defender Joe Chamberlain forced home an equaliser from close range to set up a tight finish.

Itchen left it late to complete the comeback, with Callum Parker slamming home in the final min-

utes after intense Itchen pressure.

Trounced 10-0 by Itchen the previous week, Peter Symonds' lost 5-4 to Havant, despite two goals each by Sam Adams and Ryan Crockford.

PSC II, who could challenge Itchen this season, reversed the scoreline, winning 5-4, with Andrew Sanders and hot shot Adam Price each scoring twice.

Brockenhurst took the credits against Richard Tauntons, with 4-2 and 8-2 wins at first and second team level. The thirds drew 3-3.

Highspot of the first team's win was Pete Barnicoat's goal, which made the score 2-0. After good play by George Baker and Josh Green down the left side, Baker crossed into the box and Pete Barnicoat

performed an audacious overhead kick from 12 yards out which rifled into the stanchion between bar and post.

"It was Rooney-esque!" beamed Brock boss Graham Mills.

Queen Mary's put their poor defensive performance against Richard Taunton the previous week behind them, with a much improved team performance against Alton, whom they beat 2-1.

They started the game well with some excellent passing and movement from the back.

However, the final pass let them down but a good cross from Nathan Maggs fell to Adam Alliston who made no mistake in putting QMC one up.

A nasty injury to Elliott Forsey left QMC with only 11 players and through tiredness they conceded a sloppy equaliser, where the Alton player was able to evade three tackles on the QMC byeline to cross to make it 1-1.

QMC immediately attacked and a great free flowing passing move resulted in Sammy Shahir being played in by Jack Pine, who made no mistake in coolly slotting the ball in via a post to make it 2-1 to QMC.

Poole Grammar suffered a second consecutive defeat losing 1-0 at Farnborough, where a first half 25 yard strike from Charles Appiah decided the outcome.

This week's fixtures: Alton v Brockenhurst, Barton Peveril v Bournemouth, Basingstoke v Havant, Poole Grammar v Queen Mary's, South Downs v Portsmouth, Sparsholt v Peter Symonds, Toton v Farnborough.

Winch go to Tonbridge

TWO late goals gave Winchester College a 2-1 win at Solihull and a place in the second round of the Boodles ISFA Cup.

Managed by former Saints man Lew Chatterley, Winchester trailed at half-time, but turned the game around late on.

Winchester's scant reward is a demanding second round visit to Tonbridge next month – prior to which they host a friendly match against Hampshire Schools' Under-16s at the College on Tuesday, 2.30.

Hampshire's squad is: Jack Attrill (Southampton) Aaron Bunday (IOW), Dean Carr (Andover) Jamie Clark (Gosport) Calvin Davies (Portsmouth) Tom Farrelly (Andover) Jack Hughes (Andover) Mitchell Hunt (Southampton) Ed Mahoney (Aldershot) Drew Matthews (Aldershot) Adam May (Southampton) Billy McParland (Southampton) George Pooley (Southampton) Alfie Rutherford (Portsmouth), Harvey Stevens (Aldershot) Jacob Treagus (IOW).

Boys get a bye in Cup

SOUTHAMPTON Boys are through to the second round of the English Schools Under-15 PlayStation Trophy without kicking a ball in anger.

They were due to host Poole & East Dorset, last season's quarter-finalists, at Testwood Sports College today, but their scheduled visitors were unable to raise a side.

Awarded a bye, Southampton will visit either Portsmouth or North Dorset in the second round.

Gosport & Fareham have still to play their first round tie against Aldershot & Farnham.

CATCH UP WITH COLLEGES FOOTBALL: ONLY IN THE PINK

Testway Youth League football spotlight ... Testway Youth



GOING FOR GOAL: Fordingbridge U12 on the attack against Waltham Wolves.

Order no: 17179546



Order no: 17179624

Order no: 17179522



ON TARGET: Fordingbridge U15 net one of their seven goals against Lyndhurst.

Order no: 17179781



FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN UNDER-15s

Order no: 17180241

'BRIDGE YOUTH

THE two major football clubs in Fordingbridge have taken the first steps towards a possible merger – ahead of a major anniversary.

The adult Fordingbridge Turks are one of the oldest football clubs in the whole of England.

They were formed way, way back in 1868 – four years before the first FA Cup final was held.

That actually makes them

one of the oldest 50 football clubs in the entire world!

To celebrate the Turks' 125th anniversary in April 1993, Saints boss Ian Branfoot took a virtually full strength side to the Recreation Ground in Fordingbridge.

Matt Le Tissier scored a hat-trick in a 13-1 victory against a Turks side which competed in the Bournemouth Saturday League – as the club still do.

But now falling player numbers have resulted in a

potential link-up with Fordingbridge Town Youth FC, who were only formed back in the early 1990s.

The latter club have no such problems attracting players – Fordingbridge are one of the largest clubs competing in the Testway Youth League with ten teams from under-9 through to under-18 playing on a Saturday morning.

Former Turks player Michael Penton recently took over as the

Fordingbridge Town Youth FC chairman, in addition to his role as an under-9 manager.

One of the main reasons why was to try and foster a closer relationship between the Turks and the youth club.

With the Turks only fielding one side on a Saturday these days, it is hoped any official liaison helps to provide more players in future.

Already, there have been initial talks involving officials from both clubs –



GOAL: Fordingbridge U15s celebrate.

Order no: 17179820

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League football spotlight ... Testway Youth League football



FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN UNDER-12s

Order no: 17179689



Order no: 17179582

IN MERGER TALKS

though nothing official is likely to happen until next year at the earliest.

"I know there are players who live in Fordingbridge who play on a Saturday afternoon for local village teams like Damerham or Alderholt," said Penton.

"They should be playing for the Turks.

"A town the size of Fordingbridge should have



WALTHAM WOLVES UNDER-12s

Order no: 17180000



more than just one adult team on a Saturday and Sunday.

"I would love to see the lads who are currently playing for Fordingbridge Town Youth go on and play for the Turks.

"In five years time the Turks will be 150 years old - they are one of the oldest football clubs in the world.

"I remember Saints coming down for the 125th anniversary game and there must have been 3,000

people at Fordingbridge Rec.

"It would be lovely if we could get a similar game in 2018 for the club's 150th anniversary.

"It would be even better to think that if we did play such a game, then some of the lads currently playing

for Fordingbridge Town Youth would be playing in it."

At present, Turks still play their home games at Fordingbridge Recreation Ground while the youth club's teams - until recently - all played at the Burgate School.

The youth club's older teams, though, have recently started to play their home games at the Recreation Ground.

It is hoped that, in time, more of the youth club's age groups will host Testway League games at the venue.

● Fordingbridge Under-15s defeated Lyndhurst 7-1 at the Burgate School with Cameron Turner and Kieran Osman both scoring twice on their debuts.

Further goals came from Henry Paget, Tom Goodwin and Ollie Quantick.



Order no: 17179964



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30 Nov : Birmingham Tattoo 2 day	£103
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Barclays Premier League

A. Villa.....	3	Man City.....	2
El Ahmadi 51		Toure 45	
Bacuna 73		Dzeko 56	
Weimann 75			
HT 0-1		Att 34,063	
Fulham.....	1	Cardiff.....	2
Ruiz 45		Caulker 12	
HT 1-1		Mutch 90	
HT 0-0		Att 23,020	
Hull.....	1	West Ham.....	0
Brady 12 pen			
HT 1-0		Att 24,291	
Man Utd.....	1	W.B.A.....	2
Rooney 57		Amalfitano 54	
HT 0-0		Beralhino 67	
SAINTS.....	2	Crystal P.....	0
Oswaldo 47			
Lambert 49			
HT 0-0		Att 30,699	
Spurs.....	1	Chelsea.....	1
Sigurdsson 19		Terry 65	
HT 1-0		Att 35,857	
Swansea.....	L	Arsenal.....	L
HT L-L			

	HOME					AWAY						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Spurs	6	2	1	0	4	1	2	0	1	2	1	13
Arsenal	5	2	0	1	5	4	2	0	0	6	12	
Chelsea	6	3	0	0	6	1	0	2	1	1	11	
SAINTS	6	1	2	0	3	1	2	0	1	2	11	
Man City	6	3	0	0	10	1	0	1	2	4	6	
Liverpool	5	2	0	1	2	1	1	1	0	3	2	
Hull	6	2	1	0	3	1	1	0	2	3	10	
Everton	5	1	1	0	1	0	1	2	0	5	4	
A. Villa	6	1	0	2	4	5	2	0	1	5	3	
W.B.A.	6	1	0	2	3	3	1	2	0	3	2	
Cardiff	6	1	1	1	3	3	1	1	1	3	4	
Man Utd	6	1	1	1	3	2	1	0	2	6	7	
Swansea	5	0	1	1	3	6	2	0	1	4	1	
Stoke	5	1	1	0	2	1	1	1	0	2	4	
Newcastle	5	1	1	1	3	3	1	0	1	2	5	
West Ham	6	1	0	2	4	4	0	2	1	0	1	
Norwich	5	1	1	1	3	3	0	2	0	3	4	
Fulham	6	0	1	2	3	6	1	0	2	1	3	
Crystal P	6	1	0	2	3	4	0	0	3	1	6	
Sunderlnd	5	0	0	2	1	4	0	1	2	2	1	

SkyBet Championship

Bolton.....	1	Yeovil.....	1
Mills 90		Upson 79	
HT 0-0		Att 14,771	
CHERRIES.....	1	Blackburn.....	3
Fraser 74		Rhodes 10,41 pen	
HT 0-3		Best 24	
Burnley.....	3	Charlton.....	0
Vokes 38			
Vokes 67,86			
HT 1-0		Att 10,645	
Ipswich.....	2	Brighton.....	0
McGoldrick 20,24			
HT 2-0		Att 16,474	
Leicester.....	2	Barnsley.....	1
Nugent 50,62 pen		Scotland 73	
HT 0-0		Att 21,591	
Millwall.....	2	Leeds Utd.....	0
Woolford 65			
Malone 77			
HT 0-0		Att 13,063	
Nottm For.....	1	Derby Cty.....	0
Hobbs 41			
HT 1-0		Att 28,276	
Q.P.R.....	2	Middlesbro.....	0
Barton 4			
Austin 35 pen			
HT 2-0		Att 17,081	
Reading.....	2	Birmingham.....	0
Guthrie 32,75			
HT 1-0		Att 18,252	
Sheff Wed.....	0	Doncaster.....	1
HT 0-0		Macheda 71	
Watford.....	1	Wigan.....	0
Battocchio 83			
HT 0-0		Att 14,999	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Q.P.R.	9	4	1	0	6	1	3	1	0	4	1	23
Burnley	9	3	2	0	10	2	3	0	1	7	4	20
Leicester	9	4	1	0	9	4	2	1	1	6	5	20
Watford	9	3	2	0	11	4	2	1	1	9	5	18
Nottm For	9	4	1	0	10	4	1	2	1	5	5	18
Reading	9	3	2	0	8	4	2	1	1	5	3	18
Blackpool	9	3	1	0	5	2	2	1	1	8	7	18
Huddersfield	9	2	3	0	9	4	1	1	1	2	2	13
Ipswich	9	4	0	1	11	4	0	1	2	6	13	13
CHERRIES	9	3	0	2	6	6	1	1	2	6	14	13
Blackburn	9	2	1	1	9	4	1	1	2	2	6	12
Brighton	9	2	2	1	7	4	1	2	2	2	4	12
Wigan	9	2	0	0	8	5	1	0	3	4	4	11
Derby City	9	0	0	1	3	2	8	3	1	12	5	11
Leeds Utd	9	1	1	2	4	5	2	1	2	3	4	11
Millwall	9	2	0	3	6	8	1	2	1	4	6	11
Doncaster	8	1	1	2	5	6	1	2	1	4	4	9
Middlesbro	9	0	3	1	6	7	1	2	2	6	9	8
Birmingham	9	1	1	2	5	4	1	0	4	3	9	7
Charlton	8	1	0	2	2	3	0	2	3	5	10	5
Yeovil	9	0	0	4	0	6	1	2	2	4	6	5
Sheff Wed	8	0	2	2	4	6	0	2	2	4	8	4
Bolton	9	3	2	4	6	0	1	3	3	11	4	4
Barnsley	9	1	1	2	5	12	0	0	5	5	12	4

SkyBet League One

Bradford.....	2	Shrewsbury.....	1
Hanson 90		Oliver 2 og	
HT 0-1		Att 14,128	
Bristol C.....	1	Colchester.....	1
Baldock 74		Taylor 30	
HT 0-1		Att 10,739	
Carlisle.....	2	Notts Cnty.....	1
Robson 41		McGregor 27	
HT 1-1		Att 4,315	
Crawley.....	1	Oldham.....	0
Walsh 7			
HT 1-0		Att 3,142	
Crewe.....	0	Gillingham.....	3
HT 0-1		McDonald 39	
Leyton O.....	1	Walsall.....	1
Mooney 38		Westcar 71	
HT 1-0		Att 5,429	
M K Dons.....	4	Stevenage.....	1
Barnford 12,22		Potter 42 og	
Alli 23			
Williams 62 pen			
HT 3-1		Att 20,417	
Preston.....	2	Swindon.....	1
Hume 11		N Guessan 86	
McEveley 48 og			
HT 1-0		Att 9,296	
Rotherham.....	0	Peterboro.....	1
HT 0-0		McCann 51 pen	
Tranmere.....	0	Port Vale.....	1
HT 0-0		Lines 56	
Wolves.....	2	Sheff Utd.....	0
Sako 90			
HT 0-0		Att 5,334	

	HOME						AWAY						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Leyton O	9	4	1	0	14	4	4	0	0	10	2	25	
Peterboro	9	3	0	1	5	4	4	1	0	15	4	22	
Wolves	9	4	0	1	11	4	3	1	0	6	2	22	
Preston	9	3	2	0	9	4	2	2	0	8	4	19	
Bradford	9	4	1	0	14	3	1	2	1	5	5	18	
M K Dons	9	2	3	0	11	5	1	2	1	4	4	16	
Rotherham	9	2	2	1	8	6	2	0	7	5	16		
Crawley	9	3	1	1	9	7	1	2	1	7	6	15	
Walsall	9	1	2	1	5	6	3	1	1	6	2	15	
Port Vale	9	2	1	1	7	7	2	0	3	5	7	13	
Brentford	8	2	1	1	4	3	1	2	1	6	9	12	
Swindon	9	3	1	0	11	4	0	1	4	4	9	11	
Carlisle	9	2	0	3	4	11	1	2	1	4	6	11	
Colchester	8	1	2	1	4	4	1	2	1	4	5	10	
Shrewsbury	9	1	2	1	3	2	0	3	2	5	9	8	
Oldham	8	3	1	0	13	9	1	1	2	9	7	4	
Gillingham	9	0	1	2	4	4	1	1	3	8	11	7	
Crewe	9	1	2	2	7	12	0	1	3	1	9	6	
Stevenage	9	0	1	3	5	9	1	1	3	2	8	5	
Tranmere	9	0	2	3	6	13	1	0	3	3	7	5	
Coveytry	8	3	1	0	13	9	1	1	2	9	7	4	
Bristol C	9	1	0	2	4	8	0	2	2	9	11	4	
Notts Cnty	9	1	0	3	4	6	0	1	4	5	13	4	
Sheff Utd	9	1	1	2	3	4	0	0	5	2	11	4	

^ Coventry deducted 10 points for entering administrative receivership

SkyBet League Two

Burton Albion.....	2	Scunthorpe.....	2
Kear 37		Canavan 52	
HT 1-0		Att 2,556	
Cheltenham.....	1	AFC Wimbledon.....	0
Cureton 90			
HT 0-0		Att 3,557	
Chesterfld.....	0	Mansfield.....	1
Andrew 37			
HT 0-1		Att 10,015	
Dagenham.....	2	Bury.....	1
Obafemi 44		Forrester 89 pen	
Murphy 52			
HT 1-0		Att 1,604	
Fleetwood Tn.....	1	Exeter.....	2
Blair 71		Bennett 76,79	
HT 0-0		Att 2,557	
Hartlepool.....	1	Oxford Utd.....	3
James 48		Williams 5	
HT 0-1		Smallley 67	
Newport Cnty.....	2	Torquay.....	1
Yakubu 28		Hall 90 pen	
Crow 36		Att 3,799	
HT 2-0		Azeez 58	
Northmptn.....	0	Morecambe.....	0
HT 0-0		Att 3,841	
Plymouth.....	0	Acc Stanley.....	0
HT 0-0		Att 6,180	
Rochdale.....	3	Wycombe.....	2
Hogan 5		McClure 42	
Burney 10		Kufour 58	
HT 3-1		Att 2,303	
York.....	4	POMPEY.....	2
Fletcher 4,66		Wallace 53	
Montrose 58		Marquis 88	
Jarvis 64			
HT 1-0		Att 4,848	



GOAL: Chelsea's John Terry, left, celebrates his goal against Tottenham Hotspur with teammate Branislav Ivanovic at White Hart Lane.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Chesterfld	9	4	0	1	7	2	3	1	0	7	2	22
Oxford Utd	9	2	2	0	8	5	2	4	1	5	4	18
Mansfield	9	3	0	2	12	8	3	0	1	4	2	18
Fleetwood T	9	4	1	0	10	4	1	1	2	3	4	17
Rochdale	9	3	0	1	6	4	2	2	1	5	5	17
Exeter	9	3	0	1	6	4	2	2	1	5	5	17
Wimbledon	9	4	0	0	9	3	1	1	3	3	6	16
Newport Cnty	9	3	1	1	10	6	1	2	1	5	5	15
Morecambe	9	2	2	0	7	4	2	1	2	6	7	15
Wycombe	9	1	1	1	4	3	2	1	1	4	5	14
Scunthorpe	9	2	2	0	5	2	1	3	1	6	6	14
Dagenham	9	3	2	0	8	3	0	2	2	4	9	13
Burton Albion	9	1	2	2	6	8	2	1	1	7	7	12
Southend	9	1	1	2	5	2	1	1	0	4	5	11
Plymouth	9	2	1	2	5	2	1	1	0	3	4	10